

Wabash Plain Dealer

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 21, 2019

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Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.



Pulse of Wabash

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Wabash Steel Supply to open new store

The official grand opening for the new retail store will take place from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, at its new location, 1945 S. Wabash St.

'Johnny Got His Gun' brings horror of war to Manchester

Manchester University will show the film at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 in Cordier Auditorium, followed by a panel discussion.

Southwood choirs to present holiday concert

Southwood Junior-Senior High School choirs will present a concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22 at St. Patrick's Church in Lagro. The public is invited to attend. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the end of the concert to help preserve the church and to help fund the school's music program.

Zay, Wolkins to host INDOT Indiana 24 project town hall

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, will host a town hall meeting along with State Rep. Dave Wolkins, R-Warsaw, to discuss the update on the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Indiana 24 project from 8 to 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Honeywell Center's Honeywell Room, 275 W. Market St.

Downtown businesses to extend hours on select dates

Participating shops will be open until 7 p.m. on the following dates: Nov. 23, 24, 29 and 30. Dec. 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Inside

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Slow harvest adds to farming woes

Profitability expected to decline in 2019 as costs of historically wet, late planting season add up

BY ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI  
amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com

Even though time is running out, more than a quarter of Indiana's corn fields still need to be harvested, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report released this week.

At least 72 percent of Indiana's corn crop is making its way to local grain elevators, but by this time last year, 87

percent of Indiana's corn was harvested.

Soybean farmers are closer to schedule with 88 percent of the crop harvested as of Nov. 10, which is about 3 percentage points behind the five-year average, according to USDA reports, but a historically wet planting season that caused soil compaction and delayed planting is still causing issues for local

farmers.

It's not too late for farmers to get into their fields, Purdue Extension educator Ed Farris said, but waiting later into the season comes with risks.

"The longer that crop stands in the field, the more it deteriorates, so that's what can happen the longer we go," Farris said.

Although Farris said farm-

ers are seeing good yields so far, the farmers that couldn't plant until mid-June, which is historically seen as the cutoff for successfully planting corn in Indiana, are running into issues now that temperatures are getting colder and snow has hit the ground.

"The moisture on some of those varieties (that are still in the fields) is still running in the mid-20s for percent of moisture," Farris said,

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Health officials urge Hoosiers to join GASO

Annual event set for Thursday, Nov. 21

STAFF REPORT

Each year, more than 11,000 people in Indiana die from tobacco use, a leading cause of preventable disease in Indiana.

To reduce the number of Hoosiers who smoke, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is asking individuals to commit to being tobacco free by taking part in the Great American Smoke-out (GASO) on Thursday, Nov. 21, according to a press release.

GASO is a day designated by the American Cancer Society (ACS) that encourages smokers to pledge to quit using tobacco products for just one day. The campaign emphasizes that tobacco users don't have to quit in one day but simply have to start with "day one" of their quit journey.

Smoking is a leading contributor to heart disease,

See GASO / Page A3

ISDH Anti-vaping campaign targets teens

The 'Behind the Haze' campaign is part of a \$2 million effort

STAFF REPORT

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) today launched a public awareness campaign to educate youths about the dangers of e-cigarettes, or "vaping."

The "Behind the Haze" campaign is part of a \$2 million effort announced by Governor Eric J. Holcomb and State Health Commissioner Kris Box, M.D., FACOG, to reduce vaping among Indiana youth.

"The speed at which vaping is increasing among youth is alarming, and we must protect children from a lifetime of nicotine addiction," said Governor Holcomb. "These efforts will help curb youth vaping, educate the public on health risks and provide resources to help people who want to quit."

Dr. Box said the Indiana Youth Tobacco Survey found the use of e-cigarettes has increased more than 350 percent among Indiana middle and high school students since 2012, which makes public awareness a critical part of protecting young Hoosiers' health.

"Most teens don't really know what these products contain," said Dr. Box.

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'Nature's Gift of Turkeys'



PHOTOS BY ROB BURGESS / Plain Dealer

BOOK: Eva Webb, interpretive naturalist, shows the children a page from a book about turkeys Wednesday.

Preschoolers enjoy holiday-themed activities at Salamonie Interpretive Center

BY ROB BURGESS  
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

On Wednesday, preschool-age children and their adults enjoyed holiday-themed activities at Salamonie Preschool's "Nature's Gift of Turkeys" at Salamonie Interpretive Center in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area.

"This program is designed to enhance the preschooler's basic education, including music, crafts, social interaction and time outdoors, always with a nature-related theme," stated Teresa Rody, interpretive naturalist.

Eva Webb, interpretive naturalist, began the



LEARN: Luke Peterson, 4, center, watches the program Wednesday.

See TURKEY / Page A6

Trump directed Ukraine quid pro quo, key witness says

BY LISA MASCARO,  
MARY CLARE JALONICK  
and ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ambassador Gordon Sondland told House impeachment investigators Wednesday that he worked with Rudy Giuliani on Ukraine at the "express direction" of President Donald Trump and pushed for a political "quid pro quo" with Kyiv because it was what Trump wanted.

"Mr. Giuliani was expressing the desires of the

president of the United States, and we knew that these investigations were important to the president," Sondland testified of his dealings with Trump's personal attorney.

Sondland, the most highly anticipated witness in the public impeachment probe, made clear that he believed Trump was pursuing his desire for political investigations in return for an Oval Office meeting that the Eastern European nation's new president sought to bolster his alliance with

the West. Sondland said he later came to believe military aid that Ukraine relied on to counter Russia was also being held up until the investigations were launched.

In a blockbuster morning of testimony, Sondland's opening remarks included several key details: He confirmed that he spoke with Trump on a cellphone from a busy Kyiv restaurant the day after the president prodded Ukraine's leader to investigate political rival Joe Biden. He also said

he kept Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other top administration officials aware of his dealings with Ukraine on the investigations Trump sought. Sondland said he specifically told Vice President Mike Pence he "had concerns" that U.S. military aid to Ukraine "had become tied" to the investigations.

"Everyone was in the loop," Sondland testified in opening remarks. "It was no secret."

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PULSE

Continued from A1

Annual Living Gift Market set for Nov. 23

Celebrate Christmas at Heifer International’s 32nd Living Gift Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23 at Timbercrest Senior Living, 2201 East St., North Manchester. For more information, email Jim Myer at jmyerwdw@yahoo.com.

Holidays to be welcomed with an annual open house

To mark the beginning of the holiday season, the Honeywell House will host its annual Holiday Open House from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, at 720 N. Wabash St.

‘A Christmas Story’ to be shown at the Honeywell Center

“A Christmas Story” will be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26 in the Honeywell Center’s Ford Theater. The admission fee will be \$2 per person.

Winter Banner Competition artwork displayed

The students’ artwork will hang in the Clark Gallery at the Honeywell Center through Sunday, Dec. 1.

‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ to be shown at the Honeywell Center

“It’s a Wonderful Life” will be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3 in the Honeywell Center’s Ford Theater. The admission fee will be \$2 per person.

Woman’s Clubhouse plans evening Christmas dinner

Don’t forget the Christ-

mas evening dinner Thursday, Dec. 5. It is the annual holiday fundraiser with a very special dinner and entertainment. The house will be decorated in an angel theme this year. Contact Carol McDonald by phone at 260-563-2331 or Mary Delauter at 260-563-6613 for more information.

Museum to host Family Fun Night

The Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St., will host a Family Fun Night on Friday, Dec. 6, featuring a visit from Santa Claus.

‘The Polar Express’ to be shown at the Honeywell Center

“The Polar Express” will be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10 in the Honeywell Center’s Ford Theater. The admission fee will be \$2 per person.

Christmas at the Museum Annual Banquet planned

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, the Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St., will be hosting Christmas at the Museum Annual Banquet.

Breakfast with Santa planned

On Saturday, Dec. 21,

Santa will be coming to Breakfast with Santa and will have a special treat for children at the Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St.

‘White Christmas’ to be shown at the Honeywell Center

“White Christmas” will be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17 in the Honeywell Center’s Ford Theater. The admission fee will be \$2 per person.

DivorceCare presents ‘Surviving the Holidays’ series

The DivorceCare support group, which meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 112 in the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 South State Road 13, will be offering a DVD series “Surviving the Holidays” through Tuesday, Dec. 17. Group leader and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658 or group leader Janet Quillen at 260-571-5235; email office@wabashfriends.org; or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

### 5-Day Weather Summary

<b>Thursday</b> Rain Likely 53 / 36	<b>Friday</b> Mostly Cloudy 38 / 29	<b>Saturday</b> Rain & Snow Possible 37 / 31	<b>Sunday</b> Partly Cloudy 40 / 34	<b>Monday</b> Mostly Cloudy 44 / 38

#### Sun and Moon

Today's sunset ..... 5:25 p.m.  
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 7:43 a.m.

New 11/26	First 12/4	Full 12/12	Last 12/18

#### Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see cloudy skies with a 95% chance of rain, high temperature of 53°, humidity of 90%. South wind 15 to 22 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with a 95% chance of rain, overnight low of 36°. West wind 10 to 17 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 30°.

Friend upset that man won’t allow help

**DEAR HARRIETTE:** I have a friend who is so independent that even when it is obvious he needs help, he refuses to accept it. He is a senior citizen, and he presents himself well. He had surgery recently, and I just happened to learn about it. He made me promise not to tell anybody, and he wouldn’t let me help him in any way. I feel terrible. This is what friends are for – to help out in times of need.

Even though my friend is in good health, after surgery it would have been helpful for someone to cook him a meal or help him wash his clothes. The little things can become hard when you are temporarily laid up, but he would have none of it. Eventually, I had to give up. But it made me sad that he refused any help. Should I just let this go? I hear these stories about people dying in their houses, and I would hate for something like that to happen to a friend I could have helped. – No Help Please

**Harriette Cole**  
Sense & Sensitivity



to have you as his I.C.E. – in case of emergency.

**DEAR HARRIETTE:** A family friend got an assignment in my city for the next few months. I am happy that I will be able to see her, but I want to manage expectations. My work is busy, and I have a teenager who is in overdrive with school. I can’t spend too much time with this woman, even though I like her a lot. Because she is new to the city, she is eager to get together with me. How can I make it clear to her that we can see each other occasionally, but not nearly as much as she has requested? – Time Management

**DEAR TIME MANAGEMENT:** Be as direct with her as you are with me right now. Welcome her to

town and tell her what you love about it. Meet up with her as soon as is convenient, either at your home or at a restaurant or other social environment. Suggest fun things that she can do in her spare time. And tell her that you will be able to see her only from time to time because of your own schedule.

You can stay in touch via phone or text, but draw the line if you do not have time to spend with her. You can make recommendations for activities that she may enjoy and make time when you can to see each other.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyle and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

# Wabash Plain Dealer

99 W. Canal St.  
Wabash, Ind. 46992

VOL. 161 NO. 230

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### Circulation

■ **Customer Service Telephone Hours:** 260-563-2131  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

■ **Office Hours:** Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - noon; 1 - 5 p.m.

■ **Delivery:** Your newspaper is delivered by the USPS and will arrive with your daily mail.

■ **Missed your paper?** We sincerely hope not, but if you did please contact your local post office. To verify that

your account is active, call us at 260-563-2131.

■ **Home delivery subscription rates:** Daily, 13 weeks, \$59.50. EZ-Pay, monthly, \$18.65.  
Other payment options available by calling Subscriber Services at 260-563-2131.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address change to Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

■ There will be a \$10 early termination fee to cancel an existing subscription prior to expiration date.

### Advertising

■ **Office Hours:** Monday through Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Walk-in hours are from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. 260-563-2131 (after hours, press 5 for advertising)

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■ **Retail:** cbrown @wabashplaindealer.com

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■ **Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Walk-in hours are from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**Friday-Sunday:** Hours vary  
Call: 260-563-2131  
E-mail: news@wabashplaindealer.com

(Please call in advance of your visit.)

USPS 663-940

Wabash Plain Dealer established September 1858

Published Tuesdays through Saturdays (except on postal holidays) by Paxton Media Group, by the Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Periodical postage paid at Wabash, Ind.

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# WARSAW GRAND OPENING!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 • 8AM–12PM**  
2020 Polk Dr., Warsaw, IN 46582 • 574-453-2084

Join us for a morning with GreenMark Equipment experts as we celebrate our new location in Warsaw!

- Breakfast for Attendees
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Register to win a  
**Z345R ZTrak™ Mower or an 8245R Spring Rental**

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### READERS’ CHOICE REPORTS

#### TUESDAY’S LOTTERIES

Cash 5  
23-29-30-41-42  
Estimated jackpot: \$294,000  
Cash4Life  
10-14-40-46-49,  
Cash Ball: 3  
Daily Three-Midday  
4-8-4, SB: 9  
Daily Three-Evening  
2-5-2, SB: 1  
Daily Four-Midday  
8-4-4-6, SB: 9  
Daily Four-Evening  
1-4-3-8, SB: 1  
Mega Millions  
22-43-44-47-66,  
Mega Ball: 22, Megaplier: 3  
Estimated jackpot: \$192 million  
Powerball  
Estimated jackpot: \$80 million

#### WEDNESDAY’S METALS

Aluminum.....0.79  
Copper.....2.65  
Lead.....0.89  
Zinc.....1.07  
Gold.....1471.31  
Silver.....17.12  
Platinum.....914.68

#### AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices  
Wednesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: \$3.95.  
Soybeans: \$8.88.





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Roann Chapel • 765-833-5591  
Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash • 260-563-0421  
www.grandstaff-hentgen.com

**Charles D. Bone**  
Feb. 10, 1939 - Nov. 19, 2019

Charles D. Bone, 80, formerly of Wabash, Indiana, died at 7:20 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019 at his daughter's home in Wabash. He was born Feb. 10, 1939 in Wabash, to Thomas and Sarah (Bidwell) Bone.

Charles married Janice Castle in Wabash on Dec. 28, 1964, and was the son-in-law of Jonah and Edna Castle of Paintsville, Kentucky. He worked at Wabash Alloys, retiring after 27 years, and also owned and operated Bone Moving and Storage, in Wabash, 25 years. Charles moved to Lake Tippecanoe in 1998, from Wabash, where he was a longtime resident. He enjoyed spending time on Lake Tippy, fishing, and spending time with his grandchildren and family.

He is survived by his wife, Janice Bone of Leesburg, 2 children, Michelle (Brent Saylor) Miller and Sean



(Stacey) Bone, three grandchildren, Halle Miller, Emma Bone, and Eli Bone, and his brother, Harold Bone, all of Wabash. He was preceded in death by his parents, 4 brothers, and 5 sisters.

Funeral services will be 2 pm Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019 at Jones-Preston Funeral Home, 807 S. Mayo Trail, Paintsville, Kentucky, with Pastor James Kelly Caudill officiating. Burial will be in Castle Family Cemetery, Paintsville, Kentucky. Friends may call 5 - 7 p.m. Thursday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave., Wabash, Indiana & 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday, at Jones-Preston Funeral Home, Paintsville.

Preferred memorial is F.I.S.H.

The memorial guest book for Charles may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

## Fire at NW Indiana apartment injures 4, including 2 officers

GRIFFITH (AP) — Two police officers called to an overnight apartment fire in northwestern Indiana were injured while rescuing a woman and her baby from the building's third floor.

Griffith Police Department Cmdr. Keith Martin says the officers were taken to a Munster hospital early Wednesday and treated and released.

Authorities say the woman and child the officers rescued shortly after 2 a.m. were hospitalized for smoke

inhalation, and are expected to survive.

Griffith firefighters rescued four other people from balconies of the three-story apartment building in the town, which is located about five miles south of Gary.

One person who was inside the apartment unit where the fire is believed to have originated was hospitalized. That person's condition was not immediately known.

The fire's cause remains under investigation.

## Lights out in California again with high wildfire danger

**BY JANIE HAR**

SAN FRANCISCO — The Pacific Gas & Electric Co. utility began shutting off electricity Wednesday to 375,000 people in Northern and central California to prevent power lines from sparking wildfires as the region faced a new bout of windy and warm weather that creates extreme fire danger.

Some people in the wine country counties of Napa and Sonoma north of San Francisco lost power at about 7 a.m. Power was also cut farther north in portions of Mendocino, Lake and Yolo counties, said Katie Allen, a PG&E spokeswoman.

Nearly 170,000 initially lost electricity, but the shut-offs

that started Wednesday morning were expected to affect more people as the outages spread to 18 counties and last into Thursday.

A virtually rainless fall has left brush bone-dry and forecasts called for low humidity and winds gusting at times to 55 mph, which might fling tree branches or other debris into power lines, causing sparks that could set catastrophic fires in the region, PG&E officials said.

One Napa County reporting station hasn't seen a measurable drop of rain since mid-September — the first time that's happened since 1905, said Scott Strenfel, PG&E's principal meteorologist.

## VAPING

Continued from A1

"We hope that this campaign educates youth about what they could be putting into their bodies and helps protect them from the lung injuries and nicotine addiction that we are seeing across our state."

Indiana is licensing "Behind the Haze" as part of its three-pronged Vape-Free Indiana initiative, which includes prevention, education and cessation. The effort also includes school convocations featuring the "Sweet Deception" program, which is expected to reach more than 32,000 students in 52 schools this year, peer-to-peer training and resources for schools and parents. Details and resources are available at [vapefreeindiana.isdh.in.gov](http://vapefreeindiana.isdh.in.gov).

Miranda Spitznagle, director of the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Com-

mission, said ISDH chose the "Behind the Haze" campaign because of its proven success in reaching teens in other states.

"We know that young people are more likely to pay attention to a message designed to change their behaviors when it's delivered by their peers," said Spitznagle.

"This campaign speaks to youth in clear, no-nonsense language and will reach them on media platforms that they're most likely to use, like Instagram and Facebook."

The campaign comes as ISDH continues to investigate vaping-related lung injuries that have hospitalized 104 people and led to four Indiana deaths. To learn more about these severe lung injuries, visit [www.in.gov/isdh/28337.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/28337.htm). For the latest on vaping-related injuries nationwide, visit the CDC website at <https://bit.ly/2mgcCrw>.

## GASO

Continued from A1

diabetes, asthma and cancer, accounting for 30 percent of all cancer deaths, according

## FARMING

Continued from A1

adding that corn needs to be dried to about 13-15 percent moisture for selling and storing.

Some local grain elevators are already running into issues with crops not being dried enough.

"It's been very much an added challenge for them to deal with some of the wet corn coming in," Farris said.

If crops are harvested before they are fully dried, Farris said farmers will have to use propane-powered drying machines, which add costs, especially since Farris is receiving reports that there is a propane shortage out West.

The northern Sierra Nevada has seen a fraction of an inch of rain in the past two months instead of the usual 5 inches, he said.

"This lack of rain is keeping the threat of fire very real, this late in the season, in many areas," said Scott Strenfel, PG&E's principal meteorologist.

The dry weather in Northern California came as wintry weather brings rain, wind and snow to Southern California. A storm system dumped about 2 inches of rain in the San Diego County area on Tuesday and more was expected Wednesday.

Wet conditions made for a slippery Wednesday morn-

ing commute in Los Angeles while heavy flooding stranded drivers in desert areas to the east. Flash flood watches were in effect for some communities east of Los Angeles, with storm warnings up for mountain communities.

Voluntary evacuation warnings were issued for a few communities in an area of Orange and Riverside counties that was burned in a wildfire last year.

In the north, warnings of extreme fire danger covered a large area.

California's state fire agency placed fire engines and crews in position in some counties and had crews ready to staff aircraft and bulldozers.

Although corn is yielding about 200 bushels per acre and soybeans are yielding about 55 bushels per acre, which Farris considers a "positive yield," farmers aren't expecting to do much better than break even by the season's end.

"Even though we had great yields, the bottom line is that we still don't have great profitability out there for growing corn and soybeans."

Farris said although the cold spell likely stopped crops from maturing any further, cold temperatures aren't always a bad thing for farmers waiting to harvest.

"Actually the colder weather can sometimes be a benefit because if the ground

The weather should ease by Thursday morning, allowing PG&E to begin restoring power, said Mark Quinlan, PG&E's senior director of emergency preparedness and response.

The state's largest utility decreased the number of people who could be affected from an original estimate of about 660,000 based on updated forecasts and some juggling of its power system. The utility said it will closely monitor the weather and could further reduce that number if it improves.

The blackout is the latest in a series of massive outages by the country's largest utility, including one last month that affected nearly 2.5 million people and outraged lo-

The Quitline offers help via phone, Web and text and includes additional support for pregnant women. Visit [www.QuitNowIndiana.com](http://www.QuitNowIndiana.com) or call 800-QUIT-NOW for assistance.

is frozen they may be able to get out in their fields," Farris said.

Regardless of the winter weather, Purdue University's Ag Barometer measuring farmer sentiment improved by 15 points, according to a report released Nov. 5.

"Almost across the board, farmers were more optimistic about the agricultural economy in October," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

Apart from the index on current conditions, sentiment regarding trade is the only section of the ag barometer that saw a decrease.

cal officials and customers who accused the utility of overkill and using blackouts as a crutch because it failed to harden its equipment to withstand fire weather.

The outages have been "terribly disruptive" and PG&E is taking steps to avoid them in the future but at the moment, "we won't roll the dice on public safety," company CEO Andy Vesey said.

Meanwhile, California's utilities regulators are demanding answers from wireless providers whose equipment failed during the power outages, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without a way to get emergency alerts or make 911 calls.

Hoosiers interested in stopping vaping can also call the Quitline for help, and youth looking to quit vaping can text "DitchJUUL" to 887-09 to access the national text messaging program.

At least 71 percent of farmers expected a favorable trade war resolution in August, but now just 51 percent hold the same views.

Talks are currently ongoing with Chinese trade officials, but a final deal has not been made. However, 75 percent of farmers believe the outcome will ultimately favor U.S. agriculture.

While prices are up slightly from earlier in the season, most farmers are looking forward to next season, hoping for more stability.

"The price this year may be a little better than what they thought, but we still don't see that the prices are going to take off this year on a bullish market," Farris said.



speak up

How to contact your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
http://coats.senate.gov/contact

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
http://braun.senate.gov/

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
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**State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
h18@in.gov

letters guidelines

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.



Psalms 68:19

A hurdle that likely won't be cleared

Members of Congress scurried this week to beat Thursday's deadline to approve a spending bill funding the federal government through Dec. 20. Next month they're likely to repeat the exercise – and that time, with negotiations on another stopgap measure perhaps occurring amid House votes on impeachment. Lovely.

The goal is to avert a partial government shutdown, events that usually leave both major political parties looking bad and which are costly to taxpayers. The last three shutdowns cost taxpayers \$3.7 billion in back pay to furloughed federal workers, according to a report in September by a subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.

Shutdowns also slow economic

growth. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the most recent shutdown, which lasted a record 35 days, reduced growth by a combined \$11 billion in the final three months of 2018 and the first three months of this year.

Last year's partial shutdown was only the latest in a lengthy line – Sen. James Lankford notes there have been 21 shutdowns in the past 40 years. To avoid adding one to the list, members have been told not to schedule any travel the week of Dec. 16.

Lankford, R-Oklahoma City, and Democratic Sen. Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire have been pushing a bill that, among other things, would keep members in D.C. whenever any of the government's 12 major appropriations bills aren't approved by both

chambers and signed by the president by the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Called the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act, the bill would keep agency spending at the previous year's levels while Congress hammers out a new deal. Members would work every day, including weekends. No official travel would be allowed for senators, House members, the White House and the Office of Management and Budget. Daily required votes would be required in both chambers, and no other business could be considered until a funding bill is approved.

"That would basically put Washington, D.C., inside the box," Lankford said recently on the Senate floor. "The rest of the country is not in it, but Washington, D.C.,

would have to stay here, we would have to work out our differences. When it's worked out, then we pass appropriation bills."

Lankford said colleagues have cringed at the idea of essentially being sequestered in Washington, but that many have also said they could vote for the idea. The bill was approved this summer by the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.

But we won't hold our breath waiting for final approval. Getting members to agree on much of anything is a challenge during these toxic times. Demanding that Congress do its job, although a sensible pursuit, is a particularly high hurdle that isn't likely to be cleared.

This editorial was first published in The Oklahoman.



letters to the editor

Impeachable offenses

Article Two of the U.S. Constitution states, "The President, Vice President, and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

The current impeachment inquiry by the U.S. House of Representatives against President Trump is focusing on the allegation he tried to bribe and/or extort President Zelensky of Ukraine to investigate the Bidens in exchange for \$400 million in foreign aid to Ukraine. The investigation of the Bidens did not occur and the \$400 million in aid was subsequently given to Ukraine. Therefore no bribery or extortion occurred.

But did President Trump's actions meet the test of "high Crimes and Misdemeanors"?

A recent president to be impeached was Bill Clinton. He was impeached for perjury and obstruction of justice relative to the Monica Lewinsky affair. Richard Nixon was charged, but not impeached as an outgrowth of the Watergate cover-up. He was charged with obstruction of justice, abuse of power and defying subpoenas during the impeachment investigation. The House Judiciary Committee stated that "high Crimes and Misdemeanors" goes beyond crimes to include "behaving in a manner grossly incompatible with the proper function of the office and

employing the power of the office for an improper purpose or personal gain."

Going back to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 the founding fathers decided the phrase "high Crimes and Misdemeanors" provided "flexibility and guidance" in deciding on impeachable offenses, which references 400 years of practice in Great Britain.

Alexander Hamilton stated in the Federalist Papers that "impeachment is directed at political offenses that proceed from ... the abuse or violation of some public trust." Echoing Hamilton, Justice Joseph Story in 1833 stated, "impeachable conduct is often purely political, and that no previous statute is necessary to authorize an impeachment for any official misconduct."

Therefore, it appears the term "high Crimes and Misdemeanors" refers to officials in high office who commit offenses that violate their oaths of office and can consist of abuse of power. A Harvard Law Review succinctly stated, "The majority view is that a president can legally be impeached for intentional, evil deeds that drastically subvert the Constitution and involve unforgivable abuse of the presidency – even if those deeds didn't violate any criminal laws."

I leave it to the readers to decide if they believe President Trump should be impeached.

Donald Moskowitz  
Londonderry,  
New Hampshire

Quitting can cake you a winner

Two out of every three cigarette smokers want to quit. Quitting is possible: the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout reminds us that anyone can take the step to try to quit.

Here's some good news about cigarette smoking – there are now more former smokers than current smokers in the United States. The ones who continue are also smoking less often.

Unfortunately, there are still too many people dying or suffering from smoking-related diseases. Cigarette smoking is still the number one preventable cause of disease and death in this country.

One in five people in the U.S. dies from a cause related to cigarette smoking. Secondhand smoke exposure also has health risks for non-smokers, including children, every year. But quitting is possible: the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout reminds us that anyone can take the step to try to quit.

On Nov. 21, if you know one of the more than 34 million American adult cigarette smokers, let them know that there is help and hope for better health.

Two out of every three cigarette smokers want to quit. A little over half of those who have ever smoked have quit.

Knowing the dangers of cigarette smoking helps people stop and keeps them from starting. There are 15.8 million fewer current smokers than in 1965, the year that the federal government began keeping track of smoking rates.

According to a study in CDC's

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, almost all American adults who use tobacco in any form smoke it. The most popular product among U.S. adults is cigarettes.

The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that cigarettes and other smoked tobacco products are responsible for the overwhelming burden of death and disease from tobacco use.

These products are linked to the highest number of deaths and illnesses by far compared to all tobacco products, and they create dangerous secondhand smoke.

One of the best ways to safeguard your health is not to start using any tobacco, and to quit as soon as possible if you do smoke.

Think about quitting smoking this Nov. 21.

Quitting happens one day at a time, and if you make this year's Great American Smokeout the first, you're one day closer to being free from smoking.

Quitting is hard, but you learn something new each time you try. Your health and your family's health are worth it.

The best way to help you quit is by calling 800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669).

Make Nov. 21 your first day to start. If you make each day after that your first day, you can succeed in quitting. For any other help to quit, call 260-274-2920, your local Wabash County Tobacco-Free Coalition, for help.

Dan Gray  
Director, Wabash County  
Tobacco-Free Coalition



# Thanksgiving lightened up: Kale, butternut squash and pomegranate salad

BY SONJA GOEDKOOP

This colorful, nutrient-rich salad is savory but slightly sweet and is one of my favorite additions to a Thanksgiving meal. The crunch from the walnuts and pomegranates provides a nice contrast to the soft roasted butternut squash, and the flavors are all brought together with a bright lemon maple vinaigrette. Even if you are a lover of traditional Thanksgiving dishes (I am too), you can still enjoy all the classics while adding this vegetable-forward, lighter addition to the spread.

## Kale, Butternut Squash, and Pomegranate Salad Prep

- Salad Ingredients:**  
1 large butternut squash (about 3 pounds), peeled cut into 3/4" cubes  
1/4 cup olive oil, divided  
5 cloves garlic  
1/2 tsp turmeric  
1/4 tsp salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts (can also sub pumpkin seeds or sliced almonds)  
2 large bunches (about 2 lbs total) lacinato (Tuscan) kale, stemmed and thinly sliced  
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice (from

- 1 large lemon), divided  
Sea salt  
1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar  
1 tsp pure maple syrup  
1 Tbsp Dijon mustard  
1 shallot, finely chopped  
1 cup pomegranate seeds (from 1 large pomegranate)

### Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Place cubed butternut squash on baking sheet, drizzle 1 teaspoon olive oil over the top. Add whole garlic cloves, turmeric, and salt and pepper. Toss to evenly coat the butternut squash with oil and spices. Spread butternut cubes evenly around pan and roast for 30-40 minutes until squash is fork tender. While the squash is roasting, heat 1 tsp olive oil in a small skillet over medium-high heat. Add walnuts and cook, stirring occasionally, until they are just golden brown, 2-3 minutes. Set aside.

Prepare the kale by slicing it into thin strips. Add the 2 tablespoons lemon juice and a pinch of sea salt and massage into kale to wilt. Set aside.

Note: if you are prepping the day ahead, only add the lemon and massage the kale the day it's served.

When the squash and garlic are done roasting, remove the garlic pieces and add them to a medium bowl or food processor. Add the remaining olive oil, lemon juice, apple cider vinegar, maple syrup, Dijon mustard, and shallot; whisk or pulse until smooth..

In a large mixing bowl, combine kale with about 3/4 of the dressing, and toss until kale is lightly coated. Add more dressing to taste, and reserve any leftover for another use.

Add roasted squash and pomegranate seeds to the kale; toss to combine. Transfer to a serving bowl, and top with toasted walnuts.

Makes 8 servings.  
**Per Serving:** 200 calories, 11 g total fat (1.5 g saturated fat), 23 g carbohydrate, 5 g protein, 4 g fiber, 105 mg sodium.  
**Prep Time:** 15 minutes  
**Cook Time:** 45 minutes

Sonja Goedkoop, MSPH, RD, is the lead registered dietitian at Zesty, Inc. She is passionate about helping others improve their health through diet and physical activity and believes eating nutritious food should be easy and taste great. You can follow her on Twitter @SonjaGoedkoopRD.



**SALAD:** The crunch from the walnuts and pomegranates provides a nice contrast to the soft roasted butternut squash, and the flavors are all brought together with a bright lemon maple vinaigrette.

# Special South African gin is infused with elephant dung

BY NQOBILE NTSHANGASE  
Associated Press

MOSSEL BAY, South Africa — The makers of a South African gin infused with elephant dung swear their use of the animal's excrement is no gimmick.

The creators of Indlovu Gin, Les and Paula Ansley, stumbled across the idea a year ago after learning that elephants eat a variety of fruits and flowers and yet digest less than a third of it. "As a consequence, in the elephant dung, you get the most amazing variety of these botanicals," Les Ansley said during a recent visit to their operations. "Why don't we let the elephants do the hard work of collecting all these botanicals and we will make gin from it?" he recalled his wife suggesting.

Her idea came after a safari during which a wildlife ranger described an elephant's digestive process.

Weeks later, he said his wife woke him up in the middle of the night with the inspiration. "OK," I said sleepily. "Let's give this a bash. Let's see how it works out."

The first batch of elephant dung came by mail from the park where they had taken their safari. Then the couple, both scientists, puzzled for a while before working out the gin-making process.

Now they collect the dung themselves, using their bare hands.

They described the gin's flavor as "lovely, wooded, almost spicy, earthy" and one that changes subtly with the seasons and location.

The gin bottles are marked with the date and coordinates of where the elephant dung was collected. "So, you're able to compare almost different vintages of the gin," Ansley said.

After about five sizeable bags of dung are collected for a batch of 3,000 to 4,000 bottles of the gin, the droppings are dried and crumbled, then washed to remove dirt and sand. Eventually only the remains of the fruits, flowers, leaves and bark eaten by the elephants are left behind.

Those botanicals are then sterilized and dried again and placed in an airing

cupboard. Think of it like a "spice cupboard," Ansley said. Eventually, the remains are infused in the gin.

The couple are not above testing the gin on friends before explaining its provenance. Even with an explanation in advance, they get raised eyebrows.

"The initial reaction of most people is, 'What? There's no way.' But most people are very keen to actually taste it," Ansley said. And once people hear about elephants' digestive process "it becomes a lot clearer to them, and they accept it very well."

They decided to name the gin Indlovu, which means elephant in the Zulu language. The couple did not say how much of the gin they have sold. A bottle sells for around 500 rand, or about \$32.



**CRUST:** The spiced fruit filling is simply mounded into the center of the pastry dough, and then the pastry edges are gathered and folded around the filling, leaving the top exposed.

# Galette: A rustic free-form tart that everyone can make

BY LYNDA BALSLEV

I am not a patient baker. My desserts tend to be free-form, which, in my case, is a polite way of saying messy and imprecise.

Fortunately for me, there is a place in the desert world for my arguably "rustic" desserts. I call it my sweet spot (pun intended). This includes crisps, crumbles, cobblers, galettes and crostatas, which are a group of homey desserts that show off the season's best fruit, usually in the company of some sort of pastry dough or streusel.

This galette is a perfect example — it's a free-form tart, which also goes by the name "crostata" in the Italian realm of desserts. Unlike a traditional tart or pie, a baking dish is not required. The spiced fruit filling is simply mounded into the center of the pastry dough, and then the pastry edges are gathered and folded around the filling, leaving the top exposed. The result is a golden crust cocooning a bubbling center of oozing fresh fruit.

Now, that's my kind of dessert. Try this one on for your Thanksgiving holiday.

## Pear and Cranberry Galette

**Active Time:** 20 minutes  
**Total Time:** 1 hour, plus chilling time

**Yield:** Serves 6  
**Pastry dough:**  
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter, chilled, cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
1/4 cup ice water  
**Filling:**

4 ripe but not-too-soft pears, such as Anjou or Bartlett, peeled and cored, cut into 3/4-inch pieces  
1 cup fresh cranberries  
1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar  
3 tablespoons almond meal, divided  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
1 teaspoon finely grated orange zest  
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 egg, lightly whisked

Make the pastry dough: Place the flour, sugar and salt in the bowl of a food processor and pulse once or twice to blend. Add the butter and pulse until the mixture resembles coarse meal and the butter is pea-sized. Add the water and pulse until the dough just

comes together. Transfer the dough to a work surface and flatten into a disk. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for at least 1 hour before rolling out.

Roll out the dough on a piece of parchment paper into a circle approximately 12 inches in diameter. (It does not have to be perfect!) Slide the dough onto a baking sheet and refrigerate while you prepare the filling. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Combine the pears, cranberries, 1/4 cup sugar, 2 tablespoons almond meal, the lemon juice, orange zest, cardamom and cinnamon in a bowl. Stir to combine.

Remove the dough from the refrigerator. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon almond meal over dough, leaving a 2-inch border. Mound the fruit over the almond meal. Fold the borders up and around the fruit. Lightly brush the dough with the egg and sprinkle the galette with the 1 tablespoon sugar.

Transfer the galette to the oven and bake until the crust is golden and the fruit is tender and bubbling, 35 to 40 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

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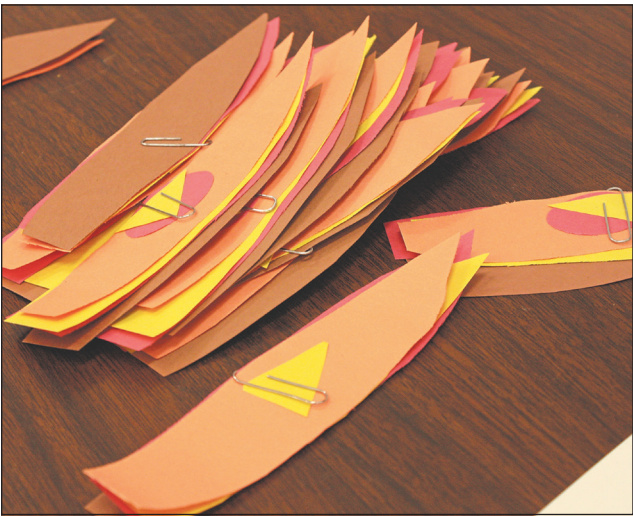
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PHOTOS BY ROB BURGESS / Plain Dealer  
PAPER: Each session features a craft.

## TURKEY

Continued from A1

program by asking the crowd what bird they might be talking about during the program. The clues included the fact that it was once considered for the national bird and they can swim, when necessary.

They then began the program by “getting the wiggles out” by singing songs, including a turkey-flavored version of “If You’re Happy and You Know It” changed to “If You’re Thankful and You Know It.”

After a few more rhymes and songs, the children constructed a craft, which was a turkey made out of colored paper and toilet paper rolls.

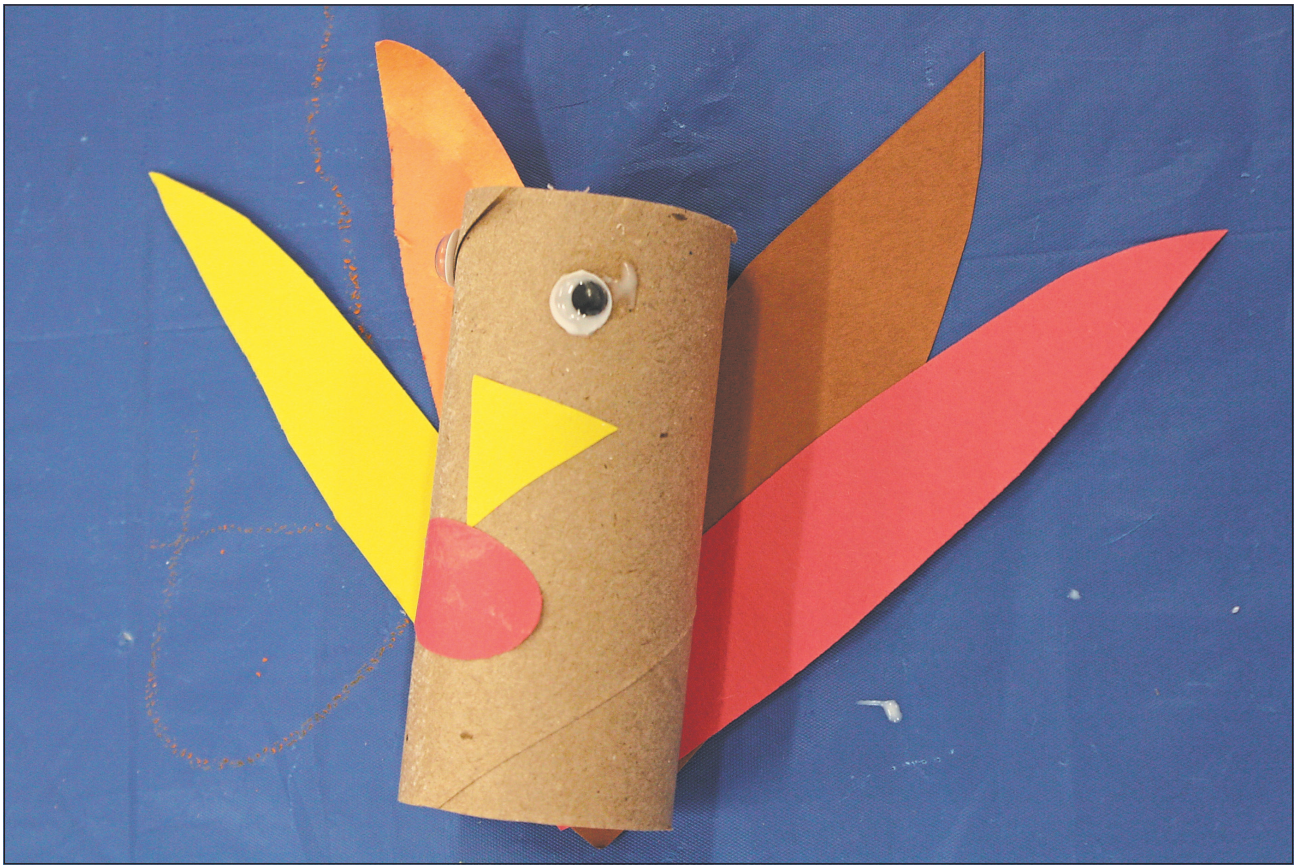
Webb then read from

books about turkeys, pointing out interesting facts. She said wild turkeys can fly and forage for nuts, acorns, greens, fruits, berries, seeds, grains, beetles, grasshoppers, flies and moths.

She said farm turkeys cannot fly and they eat food given by the farmer.

She said wild turkeys have more rust-colored feathers and skin on their heads which is blue-gray. Farmed hens can be quite white.

“Boys and girls, mama turkeys in the wild look really different. They’re really hard to see sometimes. Because their feather look like woods. So, there’s a mama turkey in the woods. She blends in. See how they’re different?” she said, holding



CRAFT: This was the finished product one of the children constructed.

up the book. “If this mama turkey right here went out into the woods she might get eaten really fast because she can’t hide, but this mama turkey can hide because her feathers are darker, so she blends in.”

Webb said the waddle under the turkey’s chins turned red whenever they get upset or excited.

“Whenever I feel a little bit anxious or embarrassed

like I’m like feeling shy my face turns red. Other people, that happens to them too sometimes. But, the turkey is sort of like us in that way,” she said.

After that, the group headed outside to play follow the leader in which they took turns playing the mother and the chicks following behind. On the hike, they also looked for items that turkeys might like to eat.



STUFFED: A stuffed turkey sits in the front of the building.

## IMPEACH

Continued from A1

A top Pence aide denied that the conversation between the vice president and Sondland occurred.

It “never happened,” said Pence chief of staff Marc Short.

Trump has insisted he did nothing wrong in his dealings with Ukraine, casting the impeachment inquiry as a politically motivated effort to push him from office. Speaking to reporters outside the White House on Wednesday, he said he wanted nothing from the Ukrainians and did not seek a quid pro quo. He also distanced himself from Sondland, a major donor to his inauguration.

“I don’t know him very well. I have not spoken to him much,” Trump said, speaking from notes on the hearing, written with a black marker.

The impeachment inquiry focuses significantly on allegations that Trump sought investigations of former Vice President Biden and his son – and the discredited idea that Ukraine rather than Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election – in return for the badly needed military aid for Ukraine and the White House visit.

In Moscow on Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was pleased that the “political battles” in Washington had overtaken the Russia allegations, which are supported by the U.S. intelligence agencies.

“Thank God,” Putin said, “no one is accusing us of interfering in the U.S. elections anymore. Now they’re

accusing Ukraine.”

Sondland said that conditions on any potential Ukraine meeting at the White House started as “generic” but “more specific items got added to the menu including – Burisma and 2016 election meddling.” Burisma is the Ukrainian gas company where Joe Biden’s son Hunter served on the board. And, he added, “the server,” the hacked Democratic computer system.

“I know that members of this committee have frequently framed these complicated issues in the form of a simple question: Was there a ‘quid pro quo?’ As I testified previously, with regard to the requested White House call and White House meeting, the answer is yes,” he said.

Sondland said he didn’t know at the time that Burisma was linked to the Bidens but has since come to understand that – and that the military aid also hinged on the investigations.

“President Trump never told me directly that the aid was conditioned on meetings,” he testified. “The only thing we got directly from Giuliani was that the Burisma and 2016 elections were conditioned on the White House meeting. ... The aid was my own personal guess ... two plus two equals four.”

The impeachment inquiry focuses significantly on allegations that Trump sought investigations of Democrat Joe Biden and his son – and the discredited idea that Ukraine rather than Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election – in return for the badly needed military aid for Ukraine and the White

House visit.

Sondland’s hours of testimony didn’t appear to sway Trump’s GOP allies in the Senate.

Mike Braun of Indiana said the president’s actions “may not be appropriate, but this is the question: Does it rise to the level of impeachment? And it’s a totally different issue and none of this has.”

“I’m pretty certain that’s what most of my cohorts in the Senate are thinking and I know that’s what Hoosiers are thinking – and most of middle America.”

Sondland, a wealthy hotelier and Trump donor, has emerged as a central figure in an intense week in the impeachment prone that has featured nine witnesses testifying over three days. Both Democrats and Republicans were uncertain about what Sondland would testify to, given that he had already clarified parts of his initial private deposition before lawmakers.

Sondland appeared prepared to fend off scrutiny over the way his testimony has shifted in closed-door settings, saying “my memory has not been perfect.” He said the State Department left him without access to emails, call records and other documents he needed in the inquiry. Republicans called his account “the trifecta of unreliability.”

Still, he did produce new emails and text messages to bolster his assertion that others in the administration were aware of the investigations he was pursuing for Trump from Ukraine.

Sondland insisted, twice, that he was “adamantly opposed to any suspension of

aid” for Ukraine. “I was acting in good faith. As a presidential appointee, I followed the directions of the president.”

The son of immigrants who he said escaped Europe during the Holocaust, Sondland described himself as a “lifelong Republican” who has worked with officials from both parties, including Biden.

Dubbed one of the “three amigos” pursuing Ukraine policy, Sondland is disputing that they were running some “rogue” “operation outside official U.S. policy. He produced emails and texts showing he, former special envoy Kurt Volker

and Energy Secretary Rick Perry kept Pompeo and others apprised of their activity. One message from Volker said, “Spoke w Rudy per guidance from S.” He said, “S means the secretary of state.”

He said the State Department “was aware that a commitment to investigations was among the issues we were pursuing.”

Democratic Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff of California said, “The knowledge of this scheme was far and wide.”

Schiff warned Pompeo and other administration officials who are refusing

to turn over documents and testimony to the committee “they do so at their own peril.” He said obstruction of Congress was included in articles of impeachment during Watergate.

The top Republican on the committee, Devin Nunes of California, decried the inquiry and told the ambassador, “Mr. Sondland, you are here to be smeared.”

Nunes renewed his demand to hear from the still-anonymous whistleblower whose complaint about Trump’s July 25 phone call with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy led the House to open the impeachment inquiry.

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Correction

In Friday's edition of the Plain Dealer, Northfield's Abby Hunter, a member of the volleyball team, was left off of the Academic All-Conference team. The Plain Dealer regrets the error.

Manchester falls to Adam Central

The Squire girls' basketball team saw its first half lead evaporate on the road on Tuesday night as Adams Central earned a 50-39 win. Mackenzie Day had 10 points and Kiera Hatfield and Morgan Parrett had seven apiece.

Eagles downed in season opener

The Emmanuel Christian basketball team fell to Harlan Christian School in its season-opener on Tuesday, 82-54. Preston Ritzema led the way with 21 points and seven rebounds while JC Frank had a double-double with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Barkley apologizes for comment about hitting a woman

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Barkley has issued an apology for a comment he made to a female political reporter about hitting her. Axios reporter Alexi McCammond wrote on Twitter Tuesday night that when she questioned Barkley on his indecisiveness over the Democratic presidential hopefuls, Barkley told her "I don't hit women but if I did I would hit you." McCammond says when she objected to his remarks, Barkley told her she "couldn't take a joke." Barkley, a former NBA player who works as a basketball analyst for TNT's Inside the NBA, issued an apology on Wednesday through TurnerSportsPR on Twitter saying his comment was "inappropriate and unacceptable." Barley said in the statement that "it was an attempted joke that wasn't funny at all. There's no excuse for it and I apologize."

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be: E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com. Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail. Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Organizations or individuals e-mailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



JACOB RUDE/Plain Dealer

**KNIGHTS:** Southwood's Ella Hauptert prepare to pass the ball during the second half of Tuesday's game against Eastern.

Offense continues to struggle in Knight loss

BY JACOB RUDE  
sports@wabashplaindealer.com

The struggles of the Southwood girls' basketball team at home against Eastern on Tuesday night could be tracked down to one stat. Long having become Miss Dependent for the Knights in her career, guard MaKenna Pace was held scoreless on the night for the first time in over two years by the Comets.

Without its leading offensive threat, Southwood toiled away on both ends to start the night, falling behind 20-3 in the first quarter as Eastern earned a convincing 52-23 win.

"We had a few ugly turn-

overs but we got enough shots in the first quarter-and-a-half that we still needed to be in the game," Southwood head coach Chad West said. "Our defense didn't come out ready. We defended fairly well the last three quarters but the first quarter, we just shot ourselves in the foot. We dug a hole that we weren't going to come out of."

The red-hot Comets flew out of the gates, scoring the first 15 points of the contest. In the midst of the offensive barrage, Pace picked up two quick fouls inside the first 90 seconds, an omen for her and the Knights' struggles on the night.

Southwood's first point

came at the 3:56 mark on a freebie from Sydney Helfin. One possession later, Helfin gave the Knights their first field goal as Southwood trailed 15-3. Eastern responded with the final five points of the first quarter before opening the second with five more unanswered to lead 25-3.

Erin Lehner connected on a three-pointer with 2:22 left for Southwood's first field goal of the second period, then drilled another three-pointer the next trip down as the only other points of the first half for Southwood with the hosts heading into the locker room down 28-9.

The offense came alive in the third quarter, starting wit

ha basket from Ella Hauptert to open the period. Maggie Ball and Ashley Smith, two players West singled out for their contributions after the contest, each scored in the period as Southwood doubled its point total in the period.

"I loved our effort. I really loved our effort," West said. "We fought the whole game. I was really pleased with our bench. I was exceptionally pleased with Maggie Ball tonight. I didn't look at the stat board but I can't imagine she didn't have double-digit rebounds. We were really pleased with her. Ashley

See **KNIGHTS** / Page B2

NASCAR

7-time champion Jimmie Johnson to retire after 2020 NASCAR season

BY JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jimmie Johnson sat down next to Jeff Gordon at a 2001 driver meeting and asked the champion if he had time to offer any career advice.

Gordon was so impressed with the fellow California native that he encouraged Rick Hendrick to start a team built specifically for the 25-year-old Johnson.

It turned into one of the greatest hires in NASCAR history and nudged Gordon aside as the most dominant driver on the track. Now Johnson will follow Gordon and many other NASCAR superstars into retirement as the seven-time champion announced Wednesday he will retire from full-time competition after next season.

The 44-year-old Johnson joins an exodus of popular drivers that began when Gordon retired after the 2015 season. Tony Stewart, Dale

Earnhardt Jr, Carl Edwards, Matt Kenseth, Danica Patrick and Jamie McMurray are among those who followed Gordon out the door.

Johnson, the winningest driver of his era, said in a video posted to his social media and titled "(hash) Chasing8 one final time" that next season will be his final attempt to win a record eighth Cup title. It will be his 19th season in the No. 48 Chevrolet.

"I am so thankful for 18 incredible years of racing in NASCAR," Johnson said in the black-and-white video comprised of highlights from his career. "This sport has been good to me and allowed me to do something I truly love. I showed up chasing a dream and achieved more than I thought possible. I am looking forward to next season and celebrating what will be my last year as a full-time Cup driver. I know what this team is ca-

pable of and I hope 2020 is one of the best yet."

Johnson scheduled a Thursday news conference at Hendrick Motorsports to discuss his decision. He joins Gordon and Earnhardt Jr. as Hendrick drivers who have called it a career since 2015.

"NASCAR history will always hold Jimmie Johnson in the highest regard, for his hard-charging success on the racetrack and the way he conducted himself as a champion off the track," said NASCAR Chairman Jim France. "This remarkable seven-time champion — through his competitive spirit, immense talent and sportsmanship — has made NASCAR a better sport."

Reaction was immediate from drivers, as well as retired cyclist Lance Armstrong and seven-time Supercross champion Jeremy McGrath.

"Proud of you, bro," Arm-

strong wrote. "And even prouder to call you a friend. Let's go get #8."

Gordon called Johnson "a class act and true champion on & off track" while current Hendrick teammate Chase Elliott was among the many young drivers to refer to Johnson as the greatest of all time with an emoji of a goat.

Johnson has 83 career victories, tied with Cale Yarborough for sixth all-time. He trails Darrell Waltrip and Bobby Allison on the all-time win list by one, and two wins in 2020 would give him sole possession of fourth on the list behind Gordon's mark of 93 trips to victory lane.

Johnson's seven titles are tied with Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt for most in the Cup Series, the last one coming in 2016. His most impressive championship battle was likely title No. 2

See **JOHNSON** / Page B2

NFL

Texans host Colts tonight for AFC South lead

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN  
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson learned from a high school coach that no matter how good or bad a game was, he had to move on to the next one quickly, or "snap and clear," as his old coach used to say.

That mantra will be perhaps more important than usual this week as Watson and the Texans look to bounce back from an embarrassing loss to Baltimore when they host Indianapolis on Thursday night with the AFC South lead on the line.

"That was our theme all through my high school career where good or bad, you're always going on to the next play," Watson said. "And OB (coach Bill O'Brien) always says you're only as good as your next game, you're only as good as your next play. So you've got to continue to have that mindset because you can never get too comfortable in this league."

The Texans and Watson were anything but comfortable on Sunday when he was sacked six times and had two turnovers in a 41-7 dismantling by the Ravens.

The Colts are on the opposite end of the spectrum, entering this matchup of 6-4 teams after beating the Jaguars 33-13 last week. Like Watson, Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett is looking forward instead of dwelling on the last game — especially with the short week.

"Everybody on the team understands the quick turnaround we have," he said. "Everybody understands that they're going through the same thing we're going through. I think as one of the leaders you don't have to make a huge production about it. You just go out there ... and understand the focus we need because we're not going to get the same practice reps we would during a regular week."

Houston receiver DeAndre Hopkins said he started looking ahead to Indianapolis in the fourth quarter against the Ravens when it was clear the game was out of reach. The Texans don't want to build up this game too much but know that losing to the Colts twice in one season would make it difficult to reach their goal of winning the division.

"It's a big game," Hopkins said. "Some of the young guys have never been in this situation, but with me being here and being on this team for a while, I understand everything we want is still in front of us. So every game is big and important, but to me this is the biggest game of the year so far."

HILTON'S HOPES

Four-time Pro Bowl receiver T.Y. Hilton has missed three consecutive games with an injured calf.

Hilton anticipates his availability for Thursday will be a game-time decision but remains hopeful of being cleared to return to action. His return would give Indy a potentially gigantic boost. In 15 games against the Texans, he has 82 receptions, 1,519 yards and 10 TD catches.

"It's just if I can get

See **COLTS** / Page B2



SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	1	0	.900	287	108
Buffalo	7	3	0	.700	211	170
N.Y. Jets	3	7	0	.300	164	255
Miami	2	8	0	.200	139	305

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	6	4	0	.600	227	206
Houston	6	4	0	.600	245	232
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500	203	197
Jacksonville	4	6	0	.400	189	222

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	2	0	.800	341	196
Pittsburgh	5	5	0	.500	200	202
Cleveland	4	6	0	.400	192	228
Cincinnati	0	10	0	.000	147	276

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	308	256
Oakland	6	4	0	.600	225	250
L.A. Chargers	4	7	0	.364	224	218
Denver	3	7	0	.300	172	197

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	6	4	0	.600	286	197
Philadelphia	5	5	0	.500	234	230
N.Y. Giants	2	8	0	.200	203	289
Washington	1	9	0	.100	125	253

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	8	2	0	.800	238	199
Carolina	5	5	0	.500	228	257
Atlanta	3	7	0	.300	220	262
Tampa Bay	3	7	0	.300	277	313

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	8	2	0	.800	250	205
Minnesota	8	3	0	.727	289	205
Chicago	4	6	0	.400	169	174
Detroit	3	6	1	.350	244	272

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	1	0	.900	295	155
Seattle	8	2	0	.800	275	254
L.A. Rams	6	4	0	.600	243	198
Arizona	3	7	1	.318	248	317

Today's Game						
Indianapolis at Houston, 8:20 p.m.						
Sunday's Games						
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m.						
Miami at Cleveland, 1 p.m.						
Seattle at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.						
N.Y. Giants at Chicago, 1 p.m.						
Carolina at New Orleans, 1 p.m.						
Denver at Buffalo, 1 p.m.						
Detroit at Washington, 1 p.m.						
Oakland at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.						
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.						
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 4:05 p.m.						
Dallas at New England, 4:25 p.m.						
Green Bay at San Francisco, 8:20 p.m.						
Open: Arizona, Minnesota, Kansas City, L.A. Chargers						
Monday's Game						
Baltimore at L.A. Rams, 8:15 p.m.						

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25 Schedule	
Saturday, Nov. 23	
No. 1 LSU vs. Arkansas, 7 p.m.	
No. 2 Ohio State vs. No. 9 Penn State, Noon	
No. 4 Georgia vs. No. 24 Texas A&M, 3:30 p.m.	
No. 5 Alabama vs. Western Carolina, Noon	
No. 6 Oregon at Arizona State, 7:30 p.m.	
No. 7 Utah at Arizona, 10 p.m.	
No. 8 Oklahoma vs. TCU, 8 p.m.	
No. 11 Minnesota at Northwestern, Noon	
No. 12 Michigan at Indiana, 3:30 p.m.	
No. 13 Baylor vs. Texas, 3:30 p.m.	
No. 14 Wisconsin vs. Purdue, 4 p.m.	
No. 15 Notre Dame vs. Boston College, 2:30 p.m.	
No. 16 Auburn vs. Samford, Noon	
No. 17 Cincinnati vs. Temple, 7 p.m.	
No. 18 Memphis at South Florida, 4 p.m.	
No. 19 Iowa vs. Illinois, Noon	
No. 20 Boise State at Utah State, 10:30 p.m.	
No. 21 SMU at Navy, 3:30 p.m.	
No. 22 Oklahoma State at West Virginia, Noon	
No. 23 Appalachian State vs. Texas State, 2:30 p.m.	
No. 25 Virginia Tech vs. Pittsburgh, 3:30 p.m.	

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	11	2	.846	—
Toronto	9	4	.692	2
Philadelphia	8	5	.615	3
Brooklyn	5	8	.385	6
New York	4	10	.286	7½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	9	3	.750	—
Orlando	6	7	.462	3½
Charlotte	6	8	.429	4
Atlanta	4	9	.308	5½
Washington	3	8	.273	5½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	10	3	.769	—
Indiana	8	6	.571	2½
Detroit	4	9	.308	6
Cleveland	4	9	.308	6
Chicago	4	10	.286	6½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	11	3	.786	—
Dallas	8	5	.615	2½
Memphis	5	9	.357	6
New Orleans	5	9	.357	6
San Antonio	5	9	.357	6

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	9	3	.750	—
Utah	8	5	.615	1½
Minnesota	8	6	.571	2
Oklahoma City	5	9	.357	5
Portland	5	10	.333	5½

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	12	2	.857	—
L.A. Clippers	9	5	.643	3
Phoenix	7	6	.538	4½
Sacramento	6	7	.462	5½
Golden State	3	12	.200	9½

Tuesday's Games	
Golden State 114, Memphis 95	
New Orleans 115, Portland 104	
Sacramento 120, Phoenix 116	
L.A. Lakers 112, Oklahoma City 107	
Wednesday's Games	
New York at Philadelphia	
San Antonio at Washington	
Charlotte at Brooklyn	
Cleveland at Miami	
Golden State at Dallas	
Milwaukee at Atlanta	
Orlando at Toronto	
Detroit at Chicago	
Utah at Minnesota	
Houston at Denver	
Boston at L.A. Clippers	

Today's Games	
Portland at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.	
New Orleans at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.	
Friday's Games	
Atlanta at Detroit, 7 p.m.	
Charlotte at Washington, 7 p.m.	
Sacramento at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.	
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.	
Miami at Chicago, 8 p.m.	
San Antonio at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.	
Cleveland at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.	
Boston at Denver, 9 p.m.	
Golden State at Utah, 9 p.m.	
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.	
Saturday's Games	
Phoenix at Minnesota, 5 p.m.	
Chicago at Charlotte, 7 p.m.	
Orlando at Indiana, 7 p.m.	
Miami at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.	
San Antonio at New York, 7:30 p.m.	
Toronto at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.	
L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 8 p.m.	
Portland at Cleveland, 8 p.m.	
Detroit at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.	
New Orleans at Utah, 9 p.m.	

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday's Men's Scores	
EAST	
Albany (NY) 78, SUNY-Potsdam 52	
Colby at Charleston 76, Marshall 66	
Dartmouth 108, Thomas (Me.) 59	
Delaware 79, St. Francis (Pa.) 64	
Lafayette 86, Penn 75	
Maryland 74, Fairfield 55	
New Hampshire 77, CCSU 63	
Northeastern 101, Holy Cross 44	
Penn St. 98, Bucknell 70	
Providence 93, Merrimack 56	
Rhode Island 70, Nichols 65	
Sacred Heart 84, Brown 63	
SOUTH	
Alabama 81, Furman 73	
Boston U. 78, South Carolina 70	
Davidson 91, Nevada 71	
E. Kentucky 99, Alice Lloyd 63	

ON THE AIR

AUTO RACING

5:30 a.m. (Friday)

**FS2:** FIA Formula E: The Ad Diriyah E-Prix, Qualifying, Diriyah, Saudi Arabia

6:30 a.m. (Friday)

**FS2:** FIA Formula E: The Ad Diriyah E-Prix, Race 1, Diriyah, Saudi Arabia

BEACH SOCCER (MEN'S)

3:40 p.m.

**FS2:** FIFA World Cup: Switzerland vs. U.S., Group A, Luque, Paraguay

6:50 p.m.

**FS2:** FIFA World Cup: Paraguay vs. Japan, Group A, Luque, Paraguay

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

11:30 a.m.

**ESPN2:** Myrtle Beach Invitational: Middle Tennessee State vs. Villanova, First Round, Conway, S.C.

**ESPNU:** Charleston Classic: Missouri State vs. Miami, First Round, Charleston, S.C.

**ESPN2:** Myrtle Beach Invitational: Baylor vs. Ohio, First Round, Conway, S.C.

7 p.m.

**BTN:** North Florida at Iowa

**ESPN2:** Empire Classic:

Georgetown vs. Texas, Semifinal, New York

**ESPNNEWS:** Myrtle Beach Invitational: Utah vs. Coastal Carolina, First Round, Conway, S.C.

**ESPNU:** Charleston Classic: Towson vs. Xavier, First Round, Charleston, S.C.

9 p.m.

**BN:** Wisconsin (Green Bay) at Wisconsin

**ESPN2:** Empire Classic: California vs. Duke, Semifinal, New York

**ESPNU:** Charleston Classic: Buffalo vs. Connecticut, First Round, Charleston, S.C.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

8 p.m.

**ESPN:** North Carolina State at Georgia Tech

GOLF

12 p.m.

**GOLF:** PGA Tour: The RSM Classic, first round, St. Simons, Ga.

**4 p.m.**

**GOLF:** LPGA Tour: The CME Group Tour Championship, first round, Naples, Fla. (taped)

**2 a.m. (Friday)**

**GOLF:** EPGA Tour: The DP World Tour Championship, second round, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

NBA BASKETBALL

8 p.m.

**TNT:** Portland at Milwaukee

**10:30 p.m.**

**TNT:** New Orleans at Phoenix

NFL FOOTBALL

8:20 p.m.

**FOX / NFL:** Indianapolis at Houston

Tuesday's Games

Columbus 5, Montreal 2
Florida 5, Philadelphia 2
N.Y. Islanders 5, Pittsburgh 4, OT
Minnesota 4, Buffalo 1
Boston 5, New Jersey 1
Ottawa 4, Detroit 3
St. Louis 3, Tampa Bay 1
Winnipeg 2, Nashville 1
Carolina 4, Chicago 2
Dallas 6, Vancouver 1
Colorado 3, Calgary 2
Vegas 4, Toronto 2
Edmonton 5, San Jose 2

Wednesday's Games

Ottawa at Montreal
Washington at N.Y. Rangers

Today's Games

Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Florida, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Calgary at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 8 p.m



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Playoff hopefuls are doing a lot of scoreboard watching

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

Pac-12 powers No. 6 Oregon and No. 7 Utah are on the road this weekend, trying to continue their march to a mega-meeting with huge playoff ramifications in the conference championship game next month.

They should also both be keeping an eye on the Big 12, where No. 8 Oklahoma is looming. And, of course, the Ducks, Utes, Sooners and other playoff hopefuls will be scoreboard watching the Southeastern Conference to see if No. 4 Georgia stumbles against Texas A&M.

Big 12 fans rooting for the Aggies? The whole point of the College Football Playoff was to connect the country and get fans interested in games involving teams from outside their regions. Who knows how many Sooners fans will have the Ducks' game against Arizona State and the Utes' meeting with Arizona on a second (or third) screen Saturday night, but the CFP has at least provided the motivation.

The Ducks (No. 6 CFP) and Utes (No. 7 CFP) are both more than two-touchdown favorites Saturday night. Same goes for the Sooners (No. 8 CFP) at home against TCU. No. 13 Baylor (No. 14 CFP) is still in the mix in the Big 12, too. The Bears host Texas in what looks like the most competitive game involving Pac-12/Big 12 contenders.

The picks:

**Arkansas (plus 43½) at No. 1 LSU**

The 175-pound Golden Boot Trophy has been in LSU's possession for the last three years and no moving vans will be required this year either ... LSU 56-10.

**No. 9 Penn State (plus 18) at No. 2 Ohio State**

Last three meetings have been decided by five points total, including two one-point victories by the Buckeyes ... OHIO STATE 35-14.

**No. 24 Texas A&M (plus 13½) at No. 4 Georgia**

Aggies first trip to Athens since joining the SEC in 2012 ... GEORGIA 27-14.

**No. 6 Oregon (minus 14½) at Arizona State**

Sun Devils won four one-score games earlier in the season, but during their current four-game losing streak they have lost three games decided by 10 points or fewer; Score another one for regression to the mean ... OR-EGON 28-17.

**No. 7 Utah (minus 22) at Arizona**

Wildcats have lost six straight and it is hard to believe this team at one point was 4-1 ... UTAH 42-10, BEST BET.

**TCU (plus 18) at No. 8 Oklahoma**

Sooners' last three games have featured a combined 237 points and in each one, second-half leads of at least 21 points were whittled down to one score ... OKLAHOMA 42-28.

**No. 11 Minnesota (minus 13½) at Northwestern**

Gophers could be without QB Tanner Morgan (concussion) ... MINNESOTA 24-7.

**No. 12 Michigan (minus 8½) at Indiana**

Wolverines have won 23 straight meetings since last Hoosiers' victory in 1987 ... MICHIGAN 31-24.

**Texas (plus 5½) at No. 13 Baylor**

Bears have lost four straight to the Longhorns ... TEXAS 28-24.

**Purdue (plus 24) at No. 14 Wisconsin**

Since being held to 50 yards rushing by Ohio State, Badgers RB Jonathan Taylor had run for 454 in two games ... WISCONSIN 42-14.

**Boston College (plus 18½) at No. 15 Notre Dame**

Eagles RB AJ. Dillon leads nation in carries with 272 including four games of at least 32 ... NOTRE DAME 42-21.

**Temple (plus 10½) at No. 17 Cincinnati**

Bearcats clinch AAC East with a victory ... CINCINNATI 24-17.

**No. 18 Memphis (minus 14) at South Florida**

Tigers have scored at least 42 points in four straight games ... MEMPHIS 48-24.

**Illinois (plus 15½) at No. 19 Iowa**

Illini come in on a four-game winning streak, their longest since 2011 ... IOWA 24-13.

**No. 20 Boise State (minus 7½) at Utah State**

Lots of QB intrigue with both starters, Hank Bachmeier for Boise State and Jordan Love for Utah State, missing games recently ... UTAH STATE 28-23, UPSET SPECIAL.

**No. 21 SMU (plus 3½) at Navy**

Winner still has a chance to win the AAC West; loser would be eliminated with a Memphis victory ... NAVY 35-31.

**No. 22 Oklahoma State (minus 7) at West Virginia**

Cowboys can still reach the Big 12 championship game by winning out and getting a little help ... OKLAHOMA STATE 38-23.

**Texas State (plus 29½) at No. 23 Appalachian State**

Victory gives App State a fifth straight season with at least nine victories ... APPALACHIAN STATE 45-17.

**Pittsburgh (plus 4) at No. 25 Virginia Tech**

Pivotal ACC Coastal matchup, but aren't they all? ... VIRGINIA TECH 24-17.

MLB

More than 100 in Congress ask MLB to reconsider minor league restructuring plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly one-quarter of the members of the U.S. House of Representatives asked Major League Baseball to reconsider its proposal for a restructuring of the minor leagues after the 2020 season that would lead to 42 teams being dropped from their current circuits.

Reps. Lori Trahan, D-Mass., and David McKinley, R-W.Va., took the lead in the letter sent Tuesday to baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred and signed by 106 members of the House.

"The abandonment of minor league clubs by Major League Baseball would devastate our communities, their bond purchasers, and other stakeholders affected by the potential loss of these clubs," the letter said. "We want you to fully understand the impact this could have not only on the communities we represent, but also on the long-term support that Congress has always afforded our national pastime on a wide variety of legislative initiatives."

The Professional Baseball Agreement between Major League Baseball and the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues expires after the 2020 season. The 176 minor league teams affiliated with the NAPBL combined to draw 41.5 million fans this year.

MLB's initial proposal, first reported by Baseball America on Oct. 18, would drop four Double-A teams: Binghamton, New York, and Erie, Pennsylvania, of the Eastern League and Chattanooga and Jackson, Tennessee, of the Southern League. The plan would eliminate the 28 teams from four Class A Short Season and Rookie Advanced leagues that do not play at spring training complexes and would lower the minimum guaranteed affiliation agreements from 160 to 120.

Major league teams supply players, coaches and equipment to the minors and say they spend nearly \$500 million annually in salary while receiving back only \$18 million.

Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem, in a letter to Congress on Tuesday, said

MLB wants upgraded stadiums, reduced travel, higher pay and better accommodations for players and a more favorable process for reaching affiliation agreements. Halem wrote that if "significantly fewer than 160 affiliates" are guaranteed, dropped communities will be invited "to join collegiate summer leagues similar to the Cape Cod League (but under the umbrella of MLB), existing independent leagues, or a newly created 'Dream League' that also would operate under the auspices of MLB."

He said based on feedback from teams and players "we have identified more than 40 minor league stadiums that do not possess adequate training facilities, medical facilities, locker rooms, and, in some cases, playing fields" and said the minor leagues "communicated to us that it is unrealistic for us to expect lower-level minor league affiliates to meet our facility standards because of the costs involved in upgrading the facilities."

Jeff Lantz, a spokesman for the NAPBL, said there was not an immediate response from the minor league governing body.

Several minor league players have sued MLB and its teams, claiming their pay violates minimum wage laws. Most minor leaguers receive an initial monthly salary of \$1,100.

Halem wrote "the majority of major league club owners believe that there are too many players in the minor league system" and said fewer than 5% of players selected after the 25th round of the annual amateur draft reach the majors.

"Most of the players on the rosters of rookie, short season and low-A teams are there to fill rosters so the minor league teams can stage games for their fans, not because the Major League Clubs require all of those players to develop major league talent," he wrote.

In the last contentious negotiation over a PBA, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., called for hearings in November 1990. The sides reached an agreement the following month for a seven-year deal.

Former Magic official wants to bring MLB to Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The man who helped bring an NBA team to Orlando said Wednesday that he wants to bring a Major League Baseball team to the theme park mecca.

Pat Williams, a former executive with the NBA's Orlando Magic, said that Orlando was more deserving than a half-dozen other cities that have been mentioned as homes to potential MLB expansion teams in the future. Those markets are Charlotte, North Carolina; Las Vegas; Montreal; Nashville, Tennessee; Portland, Oregon; and Vancouver.

With a population of 2.5 million residents, metro Orlando also gets 75 million tourists each year. In addition to pro basketball, the region has professional men's and women's soccer teams. "Orlando keeps growing and sports needs to be a part of that," Williams said. "Our resume here is much stronger than those other markets."

Williams' desire may be a pipedream since Florida already has two MLB teams with anemic attendance. The Miami Marlins and the Tampa Bay Rays respectively had the worst and second-to-worst attendance of Major

League Baseball's 30 teams this season.

So Williams on Wednesday offered what may be an appropriate name for the team: the Dreamers. He unveiled a red baseball cap with a black "O" as the logo, as well as a website, https://orlandodreamers.com/.

Williams said he's dipping his toe in the water to gauge interest in Orlando before making concrete plans.

Major League Baseball spokesman Mike Teevan said the league didn't have an immediate comment Wednesday.

Commissioner Rob Manfred has repeatedly said expansion won't be considered until the Oakland Athletics and the Rays get new ballparks.

Oakland is working on gaining approval for a waterfront ballpark at Howard Terminal and hopes to break ground by the end of next year.

The Rays last December abandoned plans for a ballpark in Tampa's Ybor City area.

Owner Stuart Sternberg said then that the team must start thinking about where it will play when its lease at St. Petersburg's Tropicana Field ends after the 2027 season.

NFL

Colts vs. Texans a key AFC South tilt tonight

BY BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

Earlier in the schedule, the AFC South looked like one of the NFL's deepest divisions. That might still be true, though none of the four members has exactly distinguished itself.

Certainly, the Texans didn't when they got mauled last week in Baltimore.

As for the Colts, whom they host on Thursday night, few teams are more inconsistent than Indy.

Both are 6-4 and because they have not been able to put distance between themselves and Tennessee, there's not certainty that Colts-Texans will be a defining game in the division.

Still, with the Colts owning a victory over Houston, they would take a mammoth step toward another postseason berth if they can sweep the Texans.

They'll be trying it without top running back Marlon Mack, out with a broken hand. Backup Jordan Wilkins says "no worries."

"We'll be ready," he says. "It's a big game because it's a division opponent, but we've got to be ready for the whole 60 minutes."

Houston barely played any minutes against the Ravens and probably is thankful to get back on the field so soon.

"It is a must-win Thursday," star receiver DeAndre Hopkins says. "Everyone knows that. We have to move forward. What we want is still ahead of us. So, that means focusing on the Colts now."

Houston, tied for No. 11 in the AP Pro32 with Indianapolis, is a 4-point choice over the Colts.

TEXANS, 27-26

**KNOCKOUT POOL:** Like most of America, a slump has hit with such picks. The Panthers turned out to be an awful choice. Hopefully PITTS-

BURGH is a more enlightened one.

**No. 26 Denver (plus 4) at No. 10 Buffalo**

This line seems kind of low as Broncos come off monumental second-half flop. BEST BET: BILLS, 20-10

**No. 5 Green Bay (plus 3 ½) at No. 3 San Francisco**

NFL loved this matchup so much it was flexed to Sunday night. Taking A-Rod over Jimmy G.

UPSET SPECIAL: PACKERS, 27-23

**No. 9 Dallas (plus 6) at No. 2 New England**

A pair of first-place teams not looking much like it these days. PATRIOTS, 20-17

**No. 4 Seattle (plus 2) at No. 15 Philadelphia**

It sure would be nice to see what a healthy Eagles team looks like. Seahawks remain unbeaten on road. SEAHAWKS, 20-16

**No. 1 Baltimore (plus 3) at No. 13 Los Angeles Rams**

Yes, we believe Ravens are NFL's best. But desperation wins out here. RAMS, 23-21

**No. 29 Miami (plus 11) at No. 20 Cleveland**

Can the Browns find a way to make headlines without controversy? Probably not. BROWNS, 29-20

**No. 17 Pittsburgh (minus 6 ½) at No. 32 Cincinnati**

Bungles might win one at some point, just not against ticked-off Steelers STEELERS, 24-12

**No. 30 New York Giants (plus 7) at No. 22 Chicago**

Wonder if Matt Nagy would rather have Daniel Jones than Mitchell Trubisky. BEARS, 16-13

**No. 14 Oakland (minus 3) at No. 28 New York Jets**

The Jets' modest two-game winning streak is trumped by Oakland's three-gamer. Make that four ... RAIDERS, 27-20

**No. 16 Carolina (plus 8) at No. 6 New Orleans**

Lots of turmoil in Carolina, and it's nice and Big Easy in Nawlins. SAINTS, 30-19

**No. 27 Tampa Bay (plus 4) at No. 24 Atlanta**

Nice turnaround by Falcons continues, perhaps saves Dan Quinn's coaching job. FALCONS, 28-22

**No. 25 Detroit (minus 3 ½) at No. 31 Washington**

Can't see Detroit favored over anyone as road team. But can't see Washington winning anywhere, either. LIONS, 15-13

**No. 21 Jacksonville (plus 3) at No. 18 Tennessee**

In case you haven't noticed, Titans are in playoff chase. TITANS, 20-16

2019 RECORD:

Last Week: 7-7 against spread, 10-4 straight up.

Season Totals: 85-75-1 against spread, 99-60-1 straight up.

Best Bet: 9-2 against spread, 9-2 straight up. Upset special: 6-5 against spread, 6-5 straight up.

MLB

Astros owner: No comment on sign stealing investigation

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Houston Astros owner Jim Crane declined comment Wednesday on Major League Baseball's investigation into allegations of sign stealing.

While walking through the lobby of the luxury hotel where owners were meeting, Crane stopped briefly

when approached by reporters.

"If you want to talk about baseball, I'll talk about baseball," Crane said. "What else do you want to talk about?"

When someone started to ask whether he had any comment about the allegations, Crane didn't even let

that question get finished before responding, "Any other issues?"

Two sheriff's deputies working security in the lobby then stepped in and escorted the Astros owner toward a flight of stairs that led upstairs to where the meetings were taking place. Baseball Commissioner

Rob Manfred said Tuesday he hopes the investigation will be completed before the start of next season and that he has authority to impose discipline beyond the loss of amateur draft picks.

Manfred is scheduled to hold a news conference Thursday after owners wrap up their meetings.



Friend fears for family living in piles of clutter

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a close friend who is an extreme hoarder. She and her husband have a beautiful, large, custom-built home that is stacked floor to ceiling with clutter. There are only narrow paths to walk around. Clothes, papers, toys, etc. are piled everywhere. Normally, I would mind my own business, but they have four children at home. The children are getting to the age where they are embarrassed about their home. It is so bad they can't invite friends over.

When we discuss the condition of the place with her and her husband, they get defensive and say they just don't have time. They do both work full-time, and their time off is usually spent shuttling the children to activities. Overall, they are excellent parents, and the children are loved and cared for, but the condition of their house is worse each time I see it, and they continue to buy more and more stuff. Last time I helped clear out a room, it was full of clutter a few weeks later. What can I do to help? Should I stay out of it? Should I contact CPS? – Clutter Everywhere

**DEAR CLUTTER EVERYWHERE:** Because you say the children are loved and cared for, instead of contacting Child Protective Services, I suggest you quietly place a call to the Health Department for guidance. From your description, the "beautiful, large, custom-built" home may be a fire hazard and possibly a danger to the family's health if there are "critters" also living in that mess. Whether their problem is the result of depression or simply gross disorganization, they do need an intervention for their children's sake.

**DEAR ABBY:** My 25-year-old daughter is getting married in about two months. Invitations have been sent out, and everything was going along pretty smoothly. However, my two older brothers, who live out of state, have informed me that neither of them will be attending her wedding. They didn't offer any reason for not attending, and money is not an issue.

My father, who has been very ill this past year with cancer, is doing everything he can to be there. My daughter had hoped that everyone could come, as it would be an opportunity for our entire family to be together, especially given my father's poor health.

Am I wrong to be upset? My brothers seem to not prioritize our family very highly. I am trying to focus on who will be there and not on who isn't. But I am afraid this isn't something I will forget. – Trying To Smile In Florida

**DEAR TRYING:** Unless you have omitted some important information from your letter, has it not occurred to you that your brothers' refusal may have something to do with their relationship with your father? I'm as mystified as you are about why they refused the invitation, but please don't allow their absence to cast a shadow over this happy occasion.

When you say you won't forget it, I hope you won't waste your precious time looking backward and carrying a grudge. Your daughter's wedding is not a command performance, and if your brothers cannot be there to appreciate the joyous occasion, so be it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Dear Abby



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Decide
- 4 Quick punch
- 7 Silent
- 10 "— we having fun yet?"
- 11 Caspian Sea tributary
- 13 Have dinner
- 14 RV haven
- 15 Extinct bird
- 16 They may be split
- 17 Tormented
- 19 RSVP word
- 20 French article
- 21 Chosen few
- 23 Thinnest coin
- 26 Curvy letters
- 28 Boathouse item
- 29 Air pump meas.
- 30 Moves toward
- 34 Come next
- 36 Brother's title
- 38 Roll-call vote

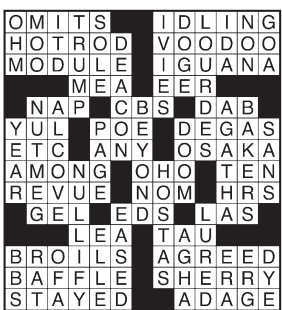
39 Incisors

- 41 Golf tees
- 42 Harden
- 44 Checkout ID
- 46 Secure a boat
- 47 Discounts
- 51 Presently
- 52 Terrible czar
- 53 Compete for
- 55 Pass over
- 56 Blarney Stone locale
- 57 Subway opposites
- 58 Breeze through
- 59 FedEx units
- 60 Kickback

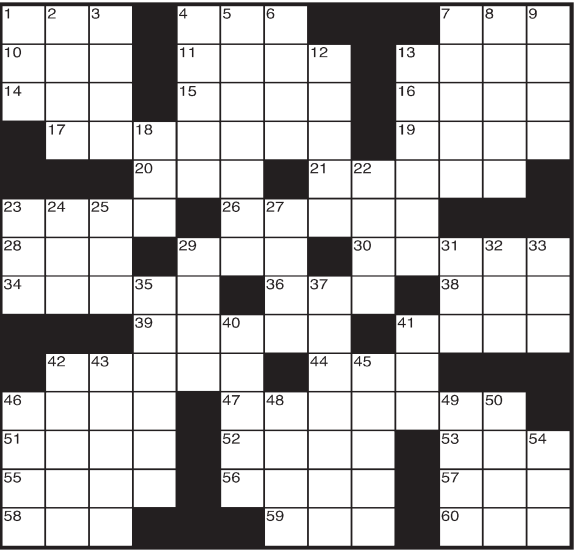
DOWN

- 1 Squirrel hangout
- 2 Gun, on stage
- 3 Wild duck
- 4 Magistrate
- 5 Stirrs up
- 6 Directed
- 7 North
- 8 Dakota city
- 8 Excessive

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 9 Sergeant's supper
- 12 Veinlike deposits
- 13 Think up
- 18 Malt brew
- 22 Horne of jazz
- 23 Female rabbit
- 24 — Holm of "Alien"
- 25 Newlywed title
- 27 Go through carefully
- 29 Ibsen's "— Gyn"
- 31 Skipper's OK
- 32 Avg. size
- 33 Airline to Stockholm
- 35 Complete reversals (hyph.)
- 37 Tart pie filling
- 40 Frightening
- 41 Interest amt.
- 42 Column type
- 43 Bronco snagger
- 45 Glass squares
- 46 Tot's cry
- 48 Sinister
- 49 Nights, in classifieds
- 50 Place to store grain
- 54 Mind reader's gift



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

				4				
	7			8				4
2				1	7	5	8	
	5						7	1
7				6	5	9		8
8	3							6
	8	9	1	3				6
5				6			4	
				9				

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How to play:

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

9	3	7	6	2	1	8	5	4
5	6	8	7	9	4	1	2	3
2	4	1	5	3	8	6	7	9
1	7	3	8	6	5	4	9	2
6	5	2	3	4	9	7	8	1
8	9	4	2	1	7	5	3	6
7	2	9	4	8	6	3	1	5
3	8	6	1	5	2	9	4	7
4	1	5	9	7	3	2	6	8

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORTFN

TRIDH

JCEBTO

SNAFET

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Ans. " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOOSE SHOVE LOUNGE THRIVE Answer: Edison filled his attic with helium because he wanted a — LIGHT HOUSE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

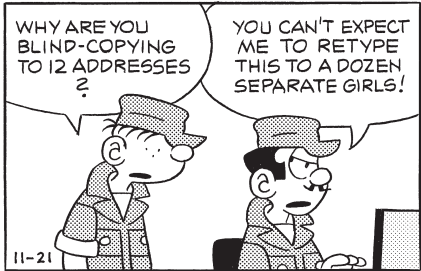
Today's Guest JUMBLER is LINCOLN PEIRCE Creator of BIG NATE



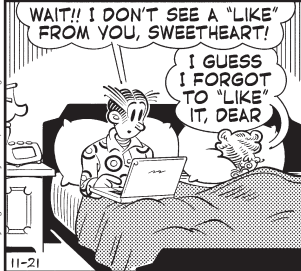
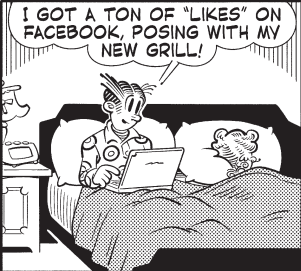
WHEN NATE HAD TO STAY AFTER SCHOOL, HE WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

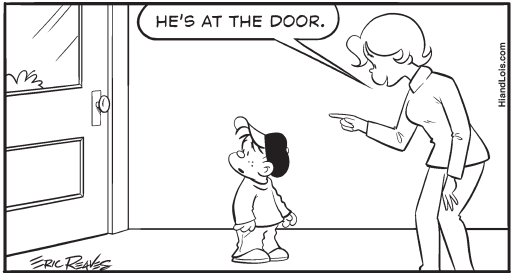
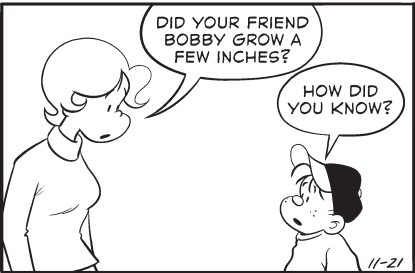
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



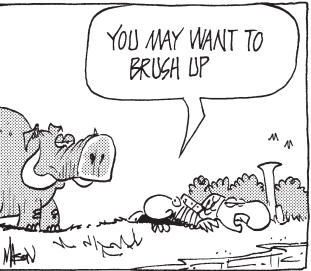
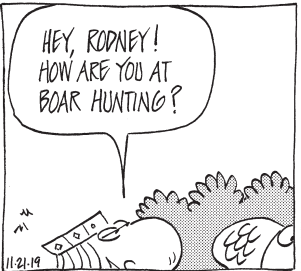
HI & LOIS



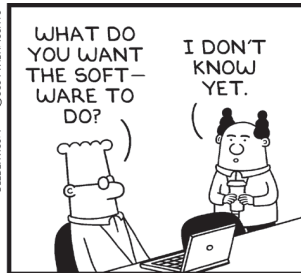
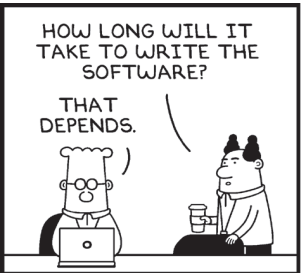
BC



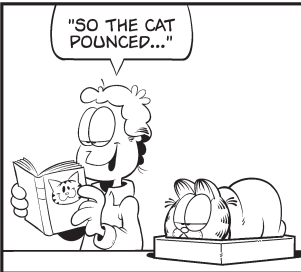
WIZARD OF ID



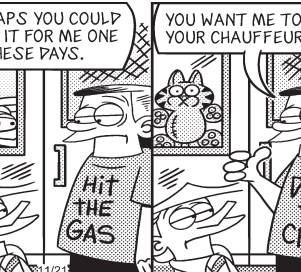
DILBERT



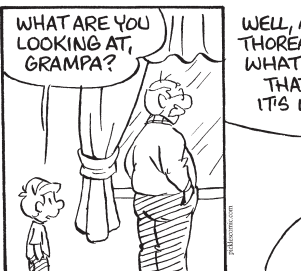
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



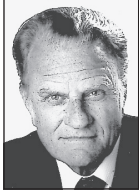
PICKLES



Acknowledging that we are inadequate is the first step

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

**Q:** I am troubled that while my daughter's talent is being recognized, what she is being exposed to could ruin her more than any success that may come. She was offended when I suggested she use her talent for the Lord. Why am I wrong to give warning? — C.M.



Billy Graham My Answer

**A:** A well-known story is told years ago about a large gathering of noted people in London. Among the invited guests to the concert was a famous preacher, Cesar Malan. A young lady played and sang to everyone's delight. After the performance, the preacher graciously, yet boldly, approached the woman and said, "As I listened to you tonight, I thought how tremendously the cause of Christ would be benefited if

your talents were dedicated to His cause. You know, young lady, you are as much a sinner in the sight of God as a drunkard in the ditch. But I'm glad to tell you that the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, can cleanse from all sin."

The woman snapped out a rebuke for his presumption, to which he replied, "My dear lady, I mean no offense. I pray God's Spirit will convict you." That night the young girl retired but could not sleep. The face of the preacher appeared before her and his words

rang through her mind. At two in the morning she rose from her bed and with tears streaming down her face, Charlotte Elliott wrote her famous poem:

*Just as I am, without one plea / But that Thy blood was shed for me / And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee / O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

Coming to the knowledge that we are inadequate in ourselves is the first step to knowing that God is all-sufficient, and that anything that is done for the good is because of Him.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"DYKLM GZPYKA IDTSLYIJ WVI WCYRIHWZ SR TIYKA TCYPPYZKW, OSKLCRXP ZKL VYPZCYSXJ." — IL VIPDJ

Previous Solution: "I want a schedule-keeping, waking-up-early, wallet-carrying, non-Velcro-shoe-wearing man." — Mindy Kaling

TODAY'S CLUE: 3 5 1 2 6 4



# Last campus protesters hold out as Hong Kong schools reopen

BY KEN MORITSUGU  
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong schools reopened Wednesday after a six-day shutdown, but students and commuters faced transit disruptions as the last anti-government protesters remained holed up on a university campus, surrounded by police.

City officials tried to restore a sense of normalcy as primary and secondary classes resumed. Workers began cleaning up debris blocking a major road tunnel, but it was unclear when it would reopen. Officials warned protesters not to disrupt elections scheduled for the weekend.

A small group of protesters refused to leave Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the remnants of hundreds who took over the campus for several days. They won't leave because they would face arrest, and police have set up a cordon around the area to prevent anyone from escaping.

The occupation of Polytechnic capped more than a week of intense protests, the latest flareup in the often-violent unrest that has gripped the semi-autonomous Chinese city for more than five months.

Also Wednesday, a former British Consulate employee said he was detained in mainland China and tortured by secret police trying to extract information about activists involved in the movement — revelations sure to add to protesters' fears about Beijing's tightening grip.

Since a police siege of the campus began Sunday, police have arrested 700 people who left campus to surrender, while another 300 minors were allowed

to go home but may still face prosecution, Chief Superintendent Ricky Ho told reporters.

Among those arrested were people involved in an apparent escape attempt through a sewer. Ho said officers saw four people remove a manhole cover and lower a rope into the drain to help two others climb out. Ho said all were arrested but did not give further details.

It was unclear how many protesters remained on campus, but they appeared to number fewer than 100. About two dozen scrounged through supplies in the cafeteria looking for food in the morning. Trash littered public areas, and a stench permeated the campus.

One protester, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he fears arrest, remained adamant.

"I think if you go out and surrender, it just shows you agree with what the police and that government are doing or have given up the fight," he said.

There were scattered incidents of protesters stopping trains by opening emergency doors and blocking traffic, but on a much smaller scale than last week.

Television footage showed long lines at some stations because of train delays. A few stations remained shut by damage from earlier protests.

A group of protesters, joined by students in uniform, blocked traffic at one intersection. Others in the area argued with them, removing some of the metal barriers that protesters carried into the street.

Even as the latest violence wound down, a fun-

damental divide suggested the protests in the former British colony are far from over.

Office workers joined protesters at lunch time in the central business district to show support for the movement, as they have every day since last week. Police kept the crowds on the sidewalks, so they wouldn't block traffic.

Hong Kong's protests began in June over an extradition bill that would have allowed suspects to be sent to China to face trial. Opponents saw it as a threat to the "one country, two systems" framework that gives Hong Kong its relative autonomy.

The bill has been withdrawn, but protesters now demand fully democratic elections and an independent investigation into police actions in suppressing the protests. City leaders have rejected these demands and said violence must stop before meaningful dialogue can begin.

Protesters also have called on the government not to cancel Sunday's neighborhood council elections. Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung, Hong Kong's No. 2 official, said officials are "extremely keen" to hold the vote.

"But much depends on the cooperation of violent protesters. It takes two to tango," he said, adding that blocking roads and disrupting traffic will make it hard for people to vote and "then it will really ruin this election."

The city sent inspectors to examine the damage to the city's Cross-Harbour Tunnel, as workers used heavy equipment to remove the debris left on the approach road.

Protesters set fire to the toll booths during their occupation of Polytechnic University that overlooks the approach to the tunnel, one of three connecting Hong Kong Island with the rest of the city.

The Hong Kong government joined China in condemning passage of legislation by the U.S. Senate that mandates sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials who commit human rights abuses and requires an annual review of the favorable trade status that the U.S. grants Hong Kong.

"The passage of this bill is an important step in holding accountable those Chinese and Hong Kong government officials responsible for Hong Kong's eroding autonomy and human rights violations," said Sen. Marco Rubio.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in a statement that the aim of the bill was to "bolster anti-China, extremist and violent radicals who attempt to disrupt Hong Kong (and) damage Hong Kong's prosperity and stability" as part of a plot to contain China's development.

A Hong Kong government statement called the legislation "unnecessary and unwarranted" and said it would "harm the relations and common interests between Hong Kong and the U.S."

Organizers said they've postponed the Hong Kong Open golf tournament because of the unrest, the latest in a string of disrupted public events. But in a rare boost for the economy, Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba raised at least \$11 billion in the city's biggest share offering since 2010.

# Royal scandal: Prince Andrew to step back from public duties

BY GREGORY KATZ  
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's Prince Andrew is stepping back from public duties with the queen's permission because of his association with a notorious sex offender.

The second son of Queen Elizabeth II said in a statement Wednesday that it has become clear to him in recent days that his association with the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein has become a "major distraction" to the royal family's charitable work.

Andrew said in the statement he is "of course" willing to help any appropriate law enforcement agency with its investigation if required.

The unseemly scandal has rocked the royal family, particularly over the past few days since his unsuccessful television interview on Saturday failed to bring an end to questions over his links to Epstein.

The decision of a senior royal to step away from his royal duties is extremely unusual and reflects the degree to which charities and educational institutions had been questioning their associations with him in recent days.

Andrew, who showed no remorse in Saturday's interview, said he regrets his association with the former U.S. billionaire investor and that he "deeply sympathizes" with Epstein's many victims.

The prince said he had sought and received his mother's permission to step back from royal duties. The statement does not say if this is a temporary or permanent change in his role.

Andrew has been heavily criticized for his performance in the television interview in which he failed to express concern for Epstein's victims, many of whom were underage and were victims of trafficking

and forced to have sex with powerful friends of the billionaire.

Andrew lost support during the interview because he seemed to show no regrets for his close association with a convicted sex offender.

Some charities that he has worked with as a patron have said they were reviewing their association with the prince because of his actions.

Epstein was awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges when he took his own life on Aug. 10 in a New York prison, robbing his victims of their chance to see him brought to justice. His death has been ruled a suicide by the city's medical examiner.

Like most senior members of the royal family, Andrew was patron for charities and other civic endeavors, lending his name and the backing of the monarchy to the good works of all manner of institutions.

Andrew's failure to show empathy for the young women exploited by Epstein earned him widespread derision — and made corporate backers and universities think twice about their ties to this senior member of the House of Windsor.

During the TV interview, Andrew categorically denied claims that he had sex with Virginia Giuffre, who says she was trafficked by Epstein. Giuffre said she had sex with Andrew on three occasions, including twice when she was 17.

In the interview with the BBC's Emily Maitlis, Andrew seemed insensitive and arrogant — particularly in an era in which social media has made even the rich and the powerful seem more accessible.

Andrew even defended his previous friendship with Epstein because of the contacts it provided when he was preparing for his role as Britain's special trade representative.

# Thunberg, Cameroon peace activist receive children's award

BY MIKE CORDER  
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Greta Thunberg, a young activist who has gone from staging school strikes to scolding world leaders about their climate change inaction, was awarded the prestigious International Children's Peace Prize on Wednesday, along with Cameroon peace campaigner Divina Maloum.

Maloum campaigns for the rights and education of Cameroon children preyed upon by extremist groups, while Thunberg has made global headlines for her calls for action to tackle climate change.

Thunberg could not accept the award in person as she

was sailing across the Atlantic Ocean toward an international climate conference in Madrid.

She texted a friend and fellow activist Luisa Neubauer who accepted the award on her behalf: "I am incredibly grateful and honored for this prize." Thunberg dedicated the prize to her Fridays For Future movement.

In a video introducing the winners, organizers said that Thunberg and Maloum show that "children are at the heart of the fight for a safe and sustainable future."

Maloum set up an organization called Children for Peace that tours schools, mosques and marketplaces in

her native Cameroon speaking to children who could fall prey to extremist groups like Boko Haram. She draws pictures, including of a child refusing to wear a suicide bomb vest, as a way of cutting through linguistic barriers to bring across her message.

She said that she would use her half of the \$110,000 fund linked to the award to help fund her group's next project, a pan-African children's parliament.

She called it "a platform which is going to help children to be implicated in peace-building processes and to make their voice be heard around the world."

Speaking to The Associated Press ahead of the ceremony, Maloum said she was honored to be receiving the prize alongside Thunberg.

"She also is a bit like a model for me so I'm very, very happy," she said.

Previous winners of the annual prize include Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl who campaigned for girls' right to education even after surviving being shot by Taliban militants, and the students behind the March For Our Lives in the aftermath of last year's deadly mass shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

# Ex-Baltimore Mayor Pugh faces fraud, tax charges

BY BRIAN WITTE  
and REGINA GARCIA CANO  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The disgraced former mayor of Baltimore was charged Wednesday with fraud and tax evasion involving sales of her self-published children's books to non-profits and foundations that did business with the government.

An 11-count federal indictment accuses Catherine Pugh of arranging fraudulent sales of her "Healthy Holly" books to schools, libraries and a medical system to enrich herself, promote her political career and fund her run for mayor.

"There are many victims in this case" said U.S. Attorney Robert Hur in announcing the indictment. "The victims are all of us, the taxpayers and the people of Baltimore, who expect and deserve integrity from their public officials."

Federal authorities say Pugh and two city employees double-sold the books or failed to deliver them to institutions they were purchased for, including the Baltimore City Public Schools. Pugh then allegedly used the proceeds to fund straw donations to her mayoral campaign and to renovate a house.

Pugh, who has been in seclusion since early April, is

expected to surrender to U.S. marshals ahead of her arraignment Thursday in Baltimore. She'll appear before U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow on charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to defraud the United States, and tax evasion.

The grand jury indictment returned on Nov. 14 also charged two associates of Pugh, Gary Brown, Jr., and Roslyn Wedington, who have pleaded guilty to conspiracy and tax fraud.

Hur described the alleged crimes as a years-long "ruse" involving "funny documents" including faked federal tax forms and invoices, and companies that did no actual work.

If convicted, Pugh faces up to 20 years in prison on each wire fraud count, and five years for each tax evasion count. The federal government also will seek to seize a house owned by Pugh and \$770,000 as part of any sentence.

Pugh's attorney, Steven Silverman, declined comment, saying he'll address the allegations in open court.

Pugh, 69, resigned in May after authorities began probing whether she arranged bulk sales of "Healthy Holly"

books to disguise political kickbacks. Federal, state and

local probes examined financial arraignments that netted Pugh hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years for her hard-to-find books. They were meant for schools and day care centers, but it's unclear where tens of thousands of copies ended up.

Asked whether he views the buyers of the books as victims, or co-conspirators, Hur said the nearly three-year investigation continues, and people can "rest assured that we are continuing to look at all the potential criminal charges that could be brought."

Hur also fended off a question about whether the purchasers received any direct benefit or desired influence.

"All very interesting questions," Hur said. "We look forward to telling more in court."

The first-term Democrat, who became mayor in late 2016, took a leave from the mayor's office in early April. At the time, Silverman blamed poor health following a bout of pneumonia, and described Pugh as so fragile physically and mentally that she was unable to make "major decisions." Days later, FBI and IRS agents raided her offices, homes and other locations, seizing money transfer receipts, a laptop, compact discs and a \$100,000 check from the

University of Maryland Medical System to Pugh's "Healthy Holly" company.

The indictment accuses her, among other crimes, of claiming taxable income in 2016 of \$31,020, with \$4,168 tax due, "when in fact, Pugh's taxable income was \$322,365, with an income tax due of approximately \$102,444."

Pugh's books included "Healthy Holly: Exercising is Fun" and "Healthy Holly: Fruits Come in Colors like the Rainbow." Most were sold directly to nonprofits and foundations that did business — or attempted to do business — with the state or the city of Baltimore, according to the indictment.

Brown, an aide to Pugh in the state Senate and during her 2016 campaign, helped hawk the books, often calling himself Healthy Holly's CEO even though he was never an employee.

Pugh had served in the state legislature since 2005. As a state senator, she sat on a committee that funded the University of Maryland Medical System, one of the state's largest private employers. She also sat on the hospital network's board starting in 2001, and until the scandal erupted in March, it was her biggest book customer.

# Ex-British Consulate staff says Chinese police tortured him

BY YANAN WANG  
Associated Press

BEIJING — A former employee of the British Consulate in Hong Kong says he was detained and tortured by Chinese secret police trying to extract information about massive anti-government protests in the territory.

Simon Cheng said in an online statement and media interviews that he was hooded, beaten, deprived of sleep and chained to an X-shaped frame by plainclothes and uniformed agents as they sought information on activists involved in the protests and the role they believed Britain played in the demonstrations.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab summoned the Chinese ambassador in London to demand Beijing investigate.

"I summoned the Chinese Ambassador to express our outrage at the brutal and disgraceful treatment of Simon in violation of China's international obligations," Raab said in a statement. "I have made clear we expect the Chinese authorities to investigate and hold those responsible to account."

Chinese police in August announced Cheng's release after 15 days of administrative detention but gave no details of the reasons behind his detention.

China's foreign ministry responded angrily to the allegations and the summoning of the ambassador at a daily briefing on Wednesday.

Ambassador Liu Xiaoming will "by no means accept the so-called concerns or complaints raised by the British side," ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said.

"The Chinese ambassador to the U.K. will lodge the complaints with the U.K. to express our strong opposition and indignation to the U.K.'s wrong words and deeds on Hong Kong in

these days," Geng said.

Geng did not address Cheng's allegations directly, but cited a statement by Shenzhen police from August saying his lawful rights had been protected and that he had "admitted his offense completely," an apparent reference to a confession of soliciting prostitution that Cheng says was coerced. Cheng has strongly denied the charge.

Police in Shenzhen did not immediately respond to faxed questions about Cheng's allegations.

Cheng worked for the consulate as a trade and investment officer with a focus on attracting Chinese investment in Scotland. That required him to travel frequently to mainland China and he was detained at the border with Hong Kong after returning from a one-day business trip.

Hong Kong's nearly six months of pro-democracy protests began in opposition to proposed legislation that would have allowed criminal suspects in the semi-autonomous city to be extradited to face trial in mainland China, where critics say their legal rights would be threatened. While Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has since withdrawn the bill, demonstrations have continued unabated as strong anti-government sentiment continues.

China says it doesn't allow suspects to be tortured or make false confessions, although both practices are believed to be common.

In his account on Facebook, Cheng wrote that he had been asked about the supposed British role in the protests, his own involvement in them and mainland Chinese who joined in demonstrations.

China has long accused "anti-China foreign forces" of fomenting the protests, which have grown increasingly violent, without providing direct evidence.



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